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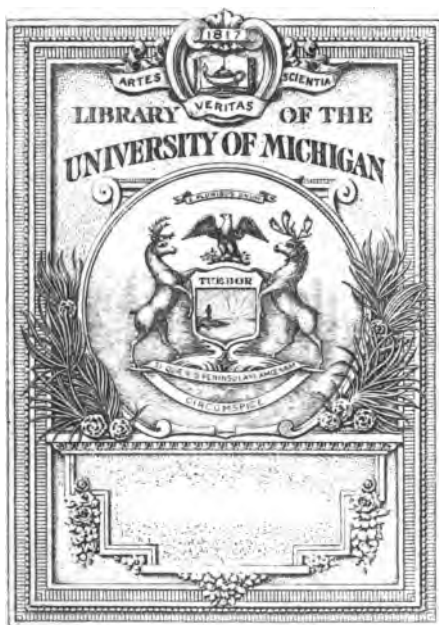
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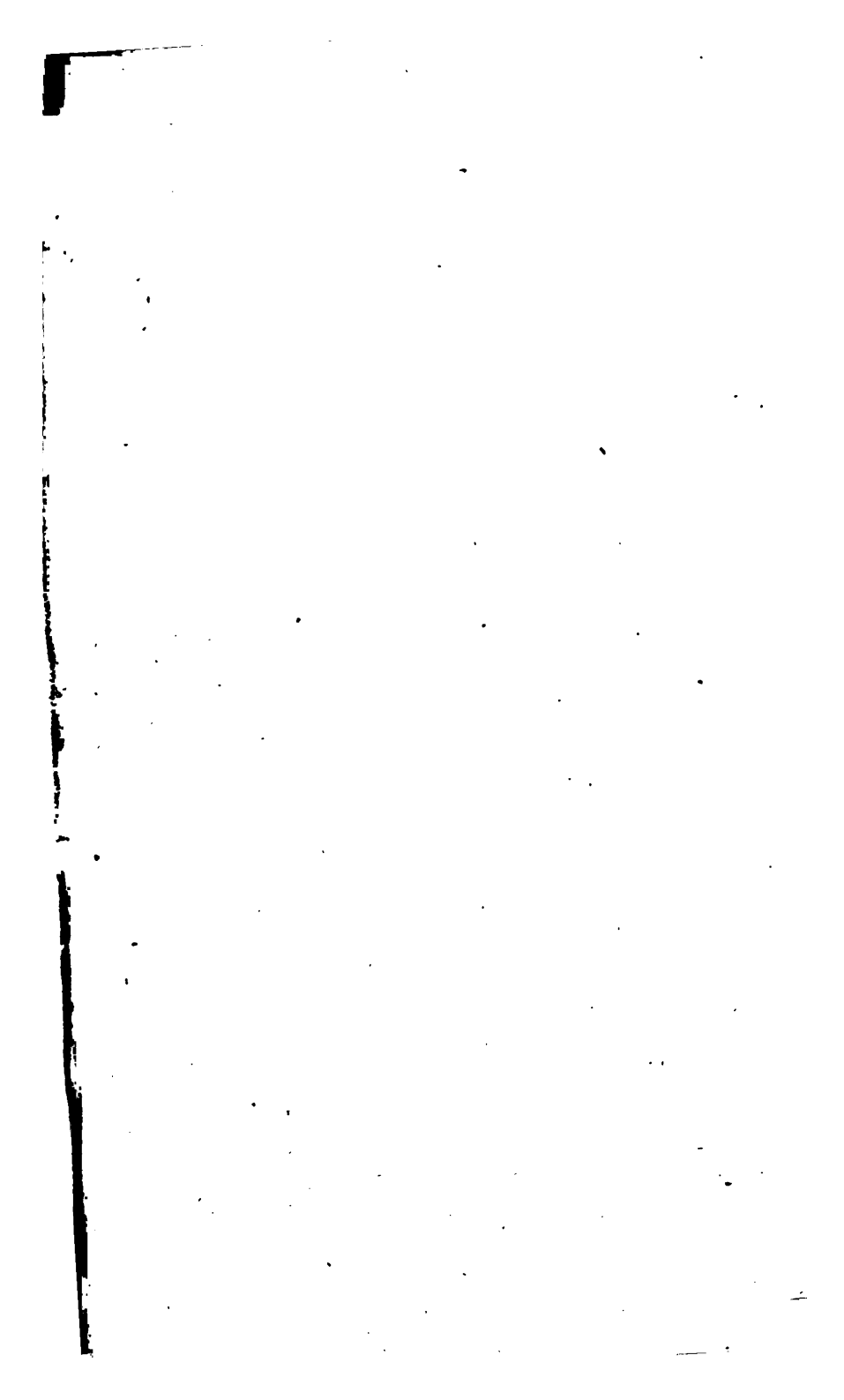
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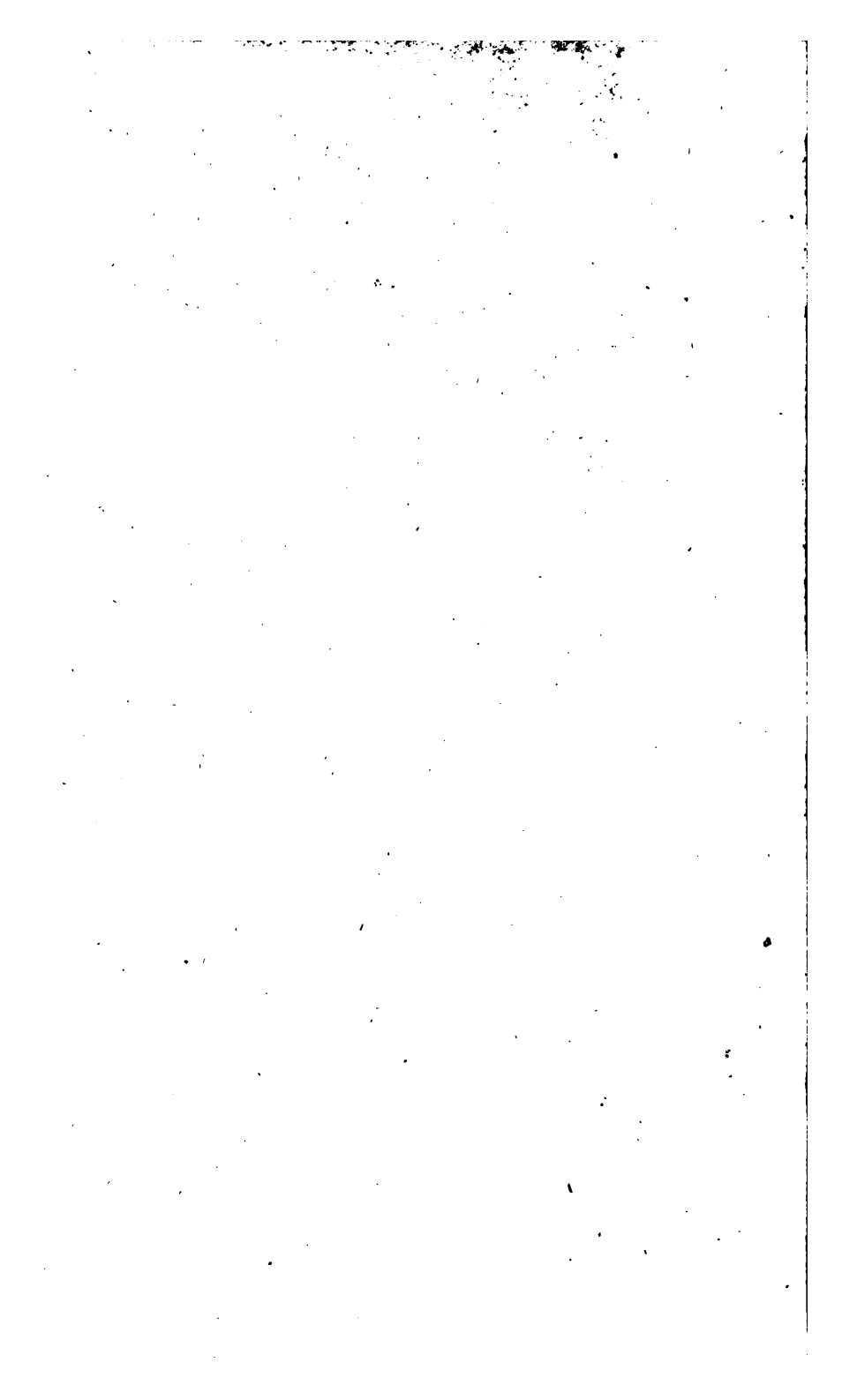


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THE  
L I F E  
A N D  
W R I T I N G S  
O F  
P H I L I P

Late DUKE of  
*Gloucester, Philip (2nd Earl) Duke of*  
W H A R T O N.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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V O L. II.

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# THE TRUE BRITON.

.N U M B. XXXVIII.

*Vendidit hic Auro Patriam, ———*  
*——— Fixit Leges pretio atque refixit. VIRG.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER II. 1723.



It is a Remark well worthy the Attention of all *Ages* and of all *Countries*, that the Poet among Those whom he judges to deserve the *worst* Place in *Hell*, has number'd such as have sacrific'd their *Country* to *private Profit*, or procur'd *Laws* to be *pass'd* or *repeal'd*, by the Force of *Bribery*.

THE Commentators have been pleas'd to tell us, that the former Part of the Satire is levell'd at *Julius Caesar*, who by a large Price brought over *Curio* and a great Number of the *Patricians* into the Measures that laid the Foundation of his Tyranny. But, with Submission to their Wisdom, *Virgil* had too many Obligations to *Augustus Caesar*, to glance, in such an invidious

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vidious Manner at the Memory of the Man, to whom his Benefactor owed his Title ; and besides, they seem not to have remember'd, with what Veneration the Poet had elsewhere spoken of the *Deification* of *Julius*, and of the *Star* which was acknowledged to be *his*.

I AM very apt to think, the *Sarcasm* was more general and extensive ; *ROME* had her *Plunderers* and *Betrayers* ; and whenever a *corrupt Faction* got the Upper-hand, her own *Treasury* was made the Instrument of overthrowing her *Liberties*.

I CANNOT look back upon the State of that *turbulent Republick*, without secretly congratulating *these Islands* upon the Advantages which we enjoy above Her. The *Ministers* there were generally *chosen* by *Corruption*, and *supported* in their Office by the *Sword* : They came to Power with no Views but of satisfying their Avarice ; and had no Regards, or Tendernefs for their Country, which were not over-*sway'd* by sordid and shameful Interests.

*ENGLAND*, on the other Hand, can never be subject to these *iniquitous Practices*, but sits above the Hazard of *Abuse* from Those, who are made the *Trustees* of her *Liberties*. Our *Ministers* are always appointed by the *Wisdom* of our *King*, assisted by his Council, and who is always to be supposed the *Father* of his Country : They are pick'd out from amongst such, whose *high Births* make them incapable of *mean* and *abject* Thoughts ; and whose Paternal Fortunes, and vast Affluence, have ever made them Strangers to Want, and therefore not to be byas'd to Treachery.

chery. Our *Places* are disposed of to Men that are the *Ornaments* of their own Dignity ; to Men, that have the *Welfare* of the *Kingdom* wholly at Heart ; and who accept of *Offices*, only to do the necessary *Drudgery* of the State, and neither to *amass* *Estates* from their Service, nor *aggrandize* any *Branches* of their Family. Hence it happens that *ENGLAND* can never be infamous for a *SEJANUS*, who rose from the Dunghill to grasp all Power, and make a *Cypber* of his Emperor ; and whose *working* Wickedness had generally a double *Plot* upon his *Prince* and the *Subject*.

IT is the peculiar Happiness of these Climes, that tho' we are celebrated for producing *Statesmen*, our greatest Honour is from the Number of our PATRIOTS. What is This, but saying, in other Words, that though we are renown'd for *Wit* and *Genius*, yet we shine out more in *native Honesty* ?

I HAVE observ'd in some Companies (of whose good Sense, or good Principles, I cannot judge too favourably) that a due Distinction is not made betwixt the Words *Statesman* and *Patriot*, but they have bene taken and used as Terms *synonymous*. I look upon it therefore the Duty of a TRUE BRITON to undeceive his Countrymen, who are so ill acquainted with the *Analogy* of Words and Things ; and to shew, there have been many *Patriots* among us, who never were called forth into the Rank of *Statesmen* ; as, on the contrary, we have had many eminent *Statesmen*, who never, in a single Action of their Lives, deserved the Stile of *Patriots*.

I HAVE

I HAVE drawn up a Definition to myself of these Two distinct Characters, and in what Lights I think they are both to be view'd by the Publick.

A STATESMAN, as the Name properly implies, is One, who by being perfectly acquainted with the *Laws of Nature and Nations*, knows how to act for the *Interest and Security* of his *Country*, knows how to protect her from the *Designs and Incroachments* of *Foreign Powers*, and how to keep the Balance at Home betwixt *private Property*, and the *Prerogative of the Crown*.

WHENEVER such a Man arises in the State, and has Honesty equal to his Capacity, he attracts the most solemn Veneration, and is looked upon as the Guardian of the Realm; the whole Prosperity of the Land is imputed to the Wisdom of his Counsels; and upon every Emergency of Danger and Disadvantage, the Eyes of the whole People are turn'd upon him for Redress.

BUT a *Statesman* too, in the *Reverse* of his Character, is to be consider'd as a *Great Minister*, in whom there may be no Necessity to suppose the same *political Knowledge*, or *active Honesty*. He may be one that having, perhaps, the Administration of the *Treasury*, or *Revenues* of a Kingdom in his Hands, and having withal a *corrupt Soul*, may have *Interests* distinct from those of the *Publick*. The Nature and Convenience of his *Employments* may make him a *Property* to the Measures of the *Court* and its *Party*; and then, of Consequence, the *Province* and *Address* of carrying Matters in a Senate, will sway much more  
with



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with him, than any Consideration of the *General Welfare*.

IF ever we should be curst with such a *Statesman*, he will be mark'd out with *Universal Odium*, and have the Sentiments of the whole Nation center in the Wishes of his *Downfall*. I could expatiate on this Side of the *Statesman's* Character, but I content myself only with a Sketch of its *Out-Lines*, and shall not envy any One the Pleasure of giving it the finishing Strokes.

THE *PATRIOT* is far from being a Character of such *ambiguous* Interpretation ; his Interests, are interwoven with and attach'd to Those of his Country ; and were it possible he could depart from this Principle, he would, from that Moment, forfeit the Name and Style of a *Patriot*. He quits the calm Retreats of Life, and intermixes with *Faction*, and the *Embroidments* of the State, only *because his Country needs his Service* ; The Promotion of her Advantages, the Defence of her Privileges, and repressing the Growth of Court-Oppressions, are his Study and Efforts. He would scorn to give up the *meanest* Branch of *Property* to the *largest Bribe* from the Hand of Corruption ; but chuse rather to fall with his Country, and the *Comfort* of an *unblemish'd Integrity*.

IN short, He is the direct *Opposite* to the Description of the *bad Statesman* ; the Pomp and Profit of Place and Promotion cannot seduce him to commit an Injustice : The other, who has only *Ambition* and *Avarice* at Heart, is merely a *Court-Spunge*, that, as  
Shake-

*Shakespeare* elegantly Phrases it, *soaks up the King's Countenance, His Rewards, His Authorities.* I believe every TRUE BRITON will join with me in the Wish, That if we ever see such a Minister in ENGLAND, we may go on to say in the Words of that Poet, *But such Officers do a King best Service in the End; He keeps them like an Apple in the Corner of his Jaw, first mous'd, to be last swallow'd: When He needs what they have glean'd, it is but squeezing them, and Spunge, they shall be dry again.*

IT is certainly the Noblest *Resumption* that a Prince can make, and the Noblest *Resentment* that a Parliament can shew, to strip a wicked overweening Favourite, that has prostituted his Master's Honour and good Name, to give a Varnish and Sanction to vile Purposes; that has converted the Publick Coffers to his own Patrimony, and grown Great by the Abuse of Power, and flagrant Plunder of the Republick. Whenever such Monsters have appeared in England, they have not descended to the Grave in the Possession of their Ill gotten Treasure. The *Spencers, Gavelston, and Wolsey*, stand out, on our Records, as *Sea-Marks* to ambitious Statesmen! — There have been too, some later Instances of *National Reprizals*, but I choose to converse only with distant Authorities.

I DOUBT not but whenever Kings are injured in themselves, or People, they have as quick a Sense of it, as the meanest Malecontent in their Dominions: and that they would as readily cashier a Servant who abuses them, as their Subjects wish to see such an one cashier'd; but the Fear of having an Office fill'd up with

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with one *worse* than the *Predecessor*, makes them often wink at Offence, and not provoke worse Consequences by an unlucky Change.

THIS brings to my Mind a facetious Fable of the late Sir *Roger L'Estrange*, with which, whether it be applicable or not, I shall take the Privilege of concluding this Essay.

A *MILLER*, that was try'd and condemn'd for *cousening* his Master, thought it very hard, he said, for a Man to suffer for what he did in the Exercise of his Calling. As he was mounting the Ladder, his Master whisper'd him to recommend some *benefit* Miller to him that might be *trusted* when he was gone. The Fellow, that was upon the Point of being *truss'd* up, took it upon his Death, That he did not know so much as one Man of the *Trade*, whom he could fairly put into his Hand. *Nay, then*, says his Master, *I had e'en as good keep to a Knave I am acquainted with, as go farther and fare worse.* So in the Conclusion, he gave the Wretch his Pardon, and Leave to *couzen* him over again.



T H E



# THE TRUE BRITON.

N U M B. XXXIX.

*Sapiens uno minor est Jove ; dives,  
Liber, honoratus, patcher ; Rex denique Regum.* HOR.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14. 1723.

To the TRUE BRITON.

SIR,



HE *Whigs* and *Tories* mutually accuse one another as a restless People, prone to Novelty and Change, partial and uneasy under every Administration : No wonder then that Foreigners are so liberal in bestowing Characters of that Kind upon the whole Nation : But I will venture to say, They are greatly mistaken ; for there is not a more Ingenuous People under the Sun than the *Generality* of the *English* ; who are so very far from being fond of Innovations, that they will bear with many Inconveniences and Oppressions before they complain, and are always pleas'd with being *undecieved* and *disabused*.

'TIS very true, that the Unhappy Divisions among us have given Rise to an unaccountable Prejudice in each  
each

each Party against the other; and hence Great Men labour under no small Difficulties when they succeed to the Places of those of the opposite Side. But that that this Prejudice takes not so deep a Root in us as to obscure the good and virtuous Actions of any Man in the Service of the Publick, of what Party soever he be, is evident from the Unanimous Concurrence of both, in giving Praise where it is justly due.

TO prove it is so with the *Tories*, I will only mention One or Two Instances (and no Doubt but Parallels may be given of the like Ingenuity in the *Whigs*) It is very well known, That the Lord COWPER came not to the Seals without a great deal of Prejudice from the *Tory* Party in General, among whom I believe, there was not one but malign'd him. But how long did this Scene continue? He had scarcely presided in that high Station One Year, before the Scales became even with the Universal Applause and Approbation of both Parties. All Signs of Prejudice were removed; and *Tories* and *Whigs* join'd in Admiration of his most excellent Qualities. There was not the least Mark of *Party Rage*, *Rashness*, *Rigour*, or *Impatience*, to be seen or trac'd throughout all his Conduct in this Critical Branch of his High Office; for which he shew'd such a Masterly Genius and uncommon Abilities, that made easy and natural to him the great Task of dispensing Justice; which, like the Sun, he diffus'd with equal Lustre on all, without Regard to Quality or Distinction. No wonder then that so general a Discontent appear'd on his Resigning the Seals.

ANOTHER Instance of this kind appears in my Lord Chief-Justice KING, who was preferred to the *Common Pleas*, under yet greater Disadvantages than my Lord *Cowper* to the *Seals*; for his great Predecessor had the Happiness, as a Judge between Man and Man, to be universally admired and beloved by both Parties; so that the Difficulty of pleasing after so able a Man seem'd in a manner insuperable; for my Lord Chief-Justice labour'd not only under the Prejudice which one Party had entertain'd against him as supposing he differ'd from them in Principles of Government; but the united good Opinion of both Parties, so justly conceived in Favour of his Predecessor's great Qualifications and Merit; which very few of either Side expected could be ever equall'd by any Person that might succeed to his Place in this Age.

SO hard is the Fate of a Successor to a Man of Great Eminence, as in this Case, that it is not sufficient for him to attain to an *Equality* with his Predecessor, but he must even *excel*, or at least be thought to do so, before he can be admitted to an *equal Share* of *Applause*; Yet, under all these Difficulties (which would have overwhelmed another) with the Eyes of all the Kingdom upon him, hath this *Truly Great Man* acquitted himself in this High Office, to the universal Satisfaction of *both Parties*; contrary to the *Expectations* of the *One*, and even beyond the *Hopes* of the *Other*. And if he had not been indeed a Prodigy of Learning and Wisdom, it would hardly have been possibly for him to surmount so many Disadvantages, and to appear in the same illustrious Light with my Lord *Trevor*.

TO draw a Parallel between these *Two Eminents* Judges, is not my present Purpose: But this I may venture to say, That our Country can boast of four Instances where *Two* such worthy Persons were *immediate Predecessor and Successor*, especially where a Difference of Principles is suppos'd. And it would be equally *Honourable* to the Prince and Favourite, as well as *Happy* for the Subjects in general; if all Dignities were succeeded to with so much *Approbation and Merit*: What I would endeavour to shew, is, That neither *Whigs nor Tories* are *irreconcilably* prejudic'd to *Opinion*: as they represent each other to be. And that a Man of *Probity and Virtue*, of whatever Party, he may be reputed, engages the *general Approbation* of both.

IF, after their Example, all Great Men would conduct themselves in their respective Offices, all *Distinctions and Party-Quarrels* would gradually subside: And if in Places so Critical, where the Actions of Great Men are subject to be *misconstrued* and *obnoxious to Censure*, (and particularly in the Cases of all such as have *Judgments* given against them) the *Approbation and Good Will* of the *Generality* may be, notwithstanding, attracted; It can't be esteem'd any Matter of Difficulty for these to acquire the like good Fortune, who have the Honour to *reside* in *Station* where their Actions are *less liable* to be *scann'd* and *observ'd*.

BUT such has been the Unhappiness of these Nations, that *Party-Prejudices* have been industriously fomented and kept up by *Designing Men*, who wanting

*True Vertue and Merit* to render themselves consider-  
able, have formerly had Recourse to *indirect Methods*  
of *Party* and *Confusion*, to recommend themselves to  
*Places* and *Preferments*.

SO artfully have these unhappy Distinctions been  
Spirited up among us by such Men; That there is  
hardly a Place even in *Low Life*, but is contended for  
by Candidates of *different Principles*, who obtain not  
the Suffrages of the Electors from their *Qualifications*,  
or *good Lives* and *Characters*, but from their being of  
this or that Party; And I have known the Election of  
a *Parish Beadle* carry'd on with as much *Violence* and  
*Rage* as that for a *Member of Parliament* or *Sheriff*  
of *London*.

THERE is another *Evil of Party*, which often  
leads to Consequences of the most pernicious Ten-  
dency; and that is, When a Man of *Narrow Abilities*  
succeeds to a *good and able Minister*, and finds he falls  
short of his Predecessor in the *General Opinion* of  
Mankind, he never fails by his Emissaries to inculcate  
to his own Party, that it is only owing to the *Pre-  
judice* and *Partiality* of the *opposite Side*; and so  
renders it necessary for them to cry up and espouse a  
Creature of their own raising; who will not fail, in  
his Turn, to please his *Benefactors*, by *partial Of-  
fices*, and *Distinctions* derogatory of *Justice* and *Ho-  
nour*.

THESE were the Misfortunes of former Times,  
when Parties took their first Rise, and Nature dealt  
more *niggardly* in the *Endowments* of *Great Men*, who  
from the Necessity of Affairs were often oblig'd to ap-  
pear



pear out of their *Elements*, and to act in *Stations* to which their *Talents* were very *unequal*. But in this *Golden Age*, Nature has been so *bountiful*, to our Great Men, that we find them blest with Capacities and Abilities to discharge the Duties of any High Station whatsoever; nay, of managing *different Branches* of *Business* at once, which heretofore requir'd Men of *different Qualifications* and *Studies*. The frequent *Interchange* of *Places* among our present Grandees, and the vast *Weight* and *Variety* of *Business* that lies upon some of them, very manifestly prove the Truth of this Observation; and will no doubt effectually tend to the utter *Dissolution* of *Party Prejudice*.

*I am, S I R,*

*Your humble Servant,*

R. T.

WE have received the remaining Letter from the Gentleman who subscribes *ORTHODOX*; but must desire his Excuse for suspending the inserting of it to another Opportunity, by Reason of its extraordinary Length. For as, on the one Hand, it cannot well be abstracted without injuring the Subject; so on the other, the great Variety of Matter, which multiplies upon us, makes it necessary to confine it to one Paper.

THE Letter subscrib'd *MER. RUSTICUS*, is come to Hand, and, with the Liberty of some few Alterations, may be inserted in a future Paper.

THE Letter sign'd PHILALETHES ALBENENSIS, relating to the Favours lately granted to the Quakers, shall be inserted at a proper Opportunity.

POLITICUS is hereby inform'd, That his Notions are so New and so Good, that they will obtain proper Regard, as well with Respect to his Numerous Admirers, as the Earning Desire of the Writer.



THE



THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XL.

*Semper Honor, Numenque suum, Laudesque manebunt.*  
VIRG.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18. 1723.



HERE cannot be any thing more conducive to the good End which is propos'd by this Paper, than placing now and then before the Eyes of the Reader, the Example of some nobly distinguish'd TRUE BRITON, whom every Man now living would think it a Glory to be able to imitate. Among all the *Illustrious Dead*, I cannot think of any at present, that would be apt to make a deeper Impression in our Minds, than One that is very lately departed from among us. When I mention the Lord COWPER's Great Character for our Pattern, I am sensible the *Theme* must be as *Grateful* as the *Occasion* of it must be *Mournful*. Men of great Abilities will best alleviate the Loss which the *Publick* sustains by his *Death*, by copying the Memorable Acts of his *Life*. What could more strongly, even in the most *Exact* and *Literal* Sense, intitle a

Man to the Worthy Character of a TRUE BRITON, than the *First Step* in Publick Life which we shall record of him? It was *He* that by *Uniting* the Two divided Nations of *England* and *Scotland* into One, made the Name of *Briton*, which is an Appellative equally Glorious with that of an *Old Roman*, our proper Name.

AFTER this, Queen *ANNE* of Glorious and Immortal Memory, in whom *Prudence* and *Piety* were happily conjoin'd, did very justly and wisely make Choice of him to be one of Her Chief Counsellors in all Affairs of the State, and constitute him Lord High Chancellor of the Kingdom, to preserve and establish among the People that *Justice*, *Peace*, and *Union*, of which he had laid the Foundation. The Dignity of this weighty Office sat *Easy* and *Graceful* upon him: In his *Person* and *Countenance* there was plainly to be seen a fine *Exterior* Figure of that *Inward* Worth, which every Body experienc'd, whom their own *Wants* press'd, and his *Affability* invited to approach him. No sooner was *He* mounted on the Bench, but all Honest Men found with Pleasure, that *Righteousness* and *Truth* were the only Pleaders that could be prevalent before him. Every *Poor* and *Just* Man, though almost sunk by the Weight of *Oppression*, enter'd the Court of *Chancery* with an Air of Confidence, because he knew, as sure as he came there, so sure he should be eased of his Burthen, and depart with a light and comforted Heart. The Party that was Cast, never went away without a full and plenary Sense of Conviction of his having been in the Wrong: And if any Person appeared guilty of *Injustice*, the Chancellor laid it open in such a Manner

a Manner, that he rather excited in the Person of *Compassion* and *Remorse* for his *Crime*, than any *Indignation* at the *Discovery*. He reprehended Men of *Ill Morals mildly*, when he hoped there might be a *Reformation* of their *Manners*: For it was never his Inclination to be *too severe* to those whom he thought he could *convert*: As he was the least liable to any *Weakness* himself, so was he the most inclined to show *Patience* and *Compassion* towards the *Infirmities* of Human Nature in *others*. In Him the *Afflicted* met with a *Comforter*, the *Friendless* with a *Powerful Assistant*, the *Ignorant* with a *Guide*, the *Defenceless Widow* with a *Safeguard*, and the *Orphan* with a *Father*. Thus his *Dignity*, his *Power*, his *Wealth*, and his *Wisdom*, were as much *Blessings* to *others* as *himself*. His *Wealth* was *Honourably* acquired, which was gain'd by taking daily Pains to suppress those vicious Arts, by which most *Worldly Wealth* is commonly procured, *Extortion*, *Fraud*, and *Rapine*; and He grew *Great* and *Honoured* by the Means of those excellent Qualities, which have been known too frequently to reduce many deserving Men, of *Less Genius* and *Prudence*, to *Poverty* and *Ruin*; that is, By the Means of *Generosity*, *Ingenuity*, and a *Benevolent* and *Compassionate* Nature. All his *Decrees* were so suitable to the concurring *Wisdom* and *Judgment* of his *Peers*, that (what can hardly be said of any of his *Predecessors*) few or none of them were ever *Reversed*. And though he showed such *Wisdom* in all his *Determinations*, he was not *slow* in giving them. The *Delay* of the *Law*, which used to be numbered as one of its *greatest Grievances*, was by him turn'd into *Dispatch*; and he made his own *Labours* the greater, to give the greater *Ease* to *other People*.  
Thus

Thus all the Time he continued in the Highest Post of Grandeur, it is, methinks, the most amiable Part of his Character, that he made us know the *Extent* and *Strength* of his *Power*, by the *Extent* and *Exertion* of his *Benevolence* and *Good-Will* towards us.

SUCH a Person could not be a Chancellor *once*, and *leave* that important Office; but it must be the *Will* of the *Prince*, and the *Wish* of the *People*, that they might behold such an exact and religious Administrator of Justice *properly* resume and *gracefully* fill the Seat of Equity *again*. The People accordingly had their *Wish*, and by his present Majesty's Appointment, he became our Chancellor once more. It was really due to such extraordinary Merit, that it should stand distinguish'd in so extraordinary a Manner, that Two Crown'd Heads should agree in their Sentiments of this *One* Man's Worth, and make Posterity assured, beyond all Dispute, that his Preference was an Act of *pure Judgment*, and not only barely a Mark of *Royal Favour*.

AS Great as all his other Talents were in him, they would never have had any Thing like that *Force* and *Efficacy*, which they ever carried along with them, if he had not been bless'd with the Gift of *ELOQUENCE*. It was the *Orator* that Lighted up the most shining Parts both of the *Statesman* and the *Judge*. And yet truly, if one was asked, In what the *Power* of his *Eloquence* chiefly consisted? one should not answer, as *Demosthenes* did the *same* Question, by saying, *Artien*; but one would answer, That it chiefly consisted in the *known Goodness* and

Pro.

*Probity of all his Actions.* His whole Time and Being, as I may say, was divided between giving good Counsel first, and then giving a *helping Hand* in the Execution of it; and *last* with the *proposed Success* to his Country. This made his *Speeches* obtain: 'Twas his *doing so Elegantly* that made him *speak so Eloquently*: His former Counsels and his former Actions, were strong Persuatives to every body that *Hear'd* him, to incline to every Thing that He advised proper in future Time: His Discourse might not improperly be compared to *Lightning*; It was *Divinely Beautiful*, and yet *Powerfully strong*; It *gilded* and *adorned* whatsoever it *touch'd upon*, but *struck down* every Thing that *opposed* it. This gave him so much Weight, that when He rose up to *speak*, every Person present prepared with Diligence to *hear*, and *listen'd* with *Attention*. There is one remarkable Instance in which we did but *fail* of attending sufficiently to what he said, and *Thousands* have *fail'd* in their Fortunes for not sufficiently attending to him then. Before the fatal Calamities of the *South-Sea* befall us, scarce *One Man* now alive imagin'd, or would believe if told, what *Every-body* now knows and feels. This Great Man warn'd us against this *Evil* as an *Evil* against which, if it once got Head, No human Prudence could provide a *thorough Remedy*, and which *Time* itself would scarce be able to heal: It is a celebrated Comparison that the Lord COWPER made, when he liken'd that *Project* to the Project of the TROJAN HORSE; whose *hollow Hairs* held *Prodigies of Mischief*, whose *Belly* receiv'd with FALSE GREEKS, and was big with the Ruin of HONEST TROY. How many have reflected, and shall continue long to reflect with Remorse, that they

they did not give Ear to his grave and solid Admonitions against this *wild Incident* that will be *incredible in History*? How many of the *Posterity* of *noble Families* shall rue the Day, that their *Ancestors* disregarded, upon *this* Occasion, the *Dictates* of that *Eloquent Tongue*, which *ought never* to have spoke in vain? But as by his *vast Judgment* and his *Virtues*. He had fixed and settled a firm Band of *UNION* in these Kingdoms; So, through their own Fault and for Want of their still adhering to *this Judgment* of his, several *Hundreds* of *Families* have miserably fallen into *Discord* and *Confusion*.

SUCH a Man's *Learning* and *Knowledge* must naturally induce him to be (as HE was) the Patron of *all Sciences*, who was sure to be praised by *them All*. Many *Worthy Men* of *Genius* have *sprung up* and grown *Happy* under His Protection; Men, who were *Masters* of the *Liberal Arts* and *Sciences* which they profess'd: And yet if he was to be celebrated by *All* the *Best* of those whom He patronized, he must be acknowledged to have been a *better Master* of those *Sciences* than *any* of *them All*. He had not only the *Right* of *Authority*, *Dignity*, and *Wealth* to protect the *Learned*, but a *Superiority* of *Genius* to Intitle him to the *Protectorship* of them. It is for *this Reason*, that as fam'd a Writer as any that adorns the present Age, *decently* humbling himself before this *Great Man*, as one of a far *Superior Capacity*; does, while he is recommending his *Works* to that *Lord's Protection*, Address him upon the Powers of *Elocution*, with the utmost *Propriety*, in the following Words: "If *these Gifts* were communicated to *all Men* in Proportion to the *Truth* and *Arduous* of  
" their



" their *Hearts*, I should speak of YOU with the  
 " *same Force* as You express Yourself on any other  
 " *Subject*. But I resist my present Impulse, as agree-  
 " able as it is to me; though, indeed, had I any Pre-  
 " tensions to a Fame of this kind, I should, *above*  
 " *all other Themes*, attempt a *Panegyrick* upon my  
 " Lord COWPER: For the only sure Way to a Re-  
 " putation for *Eloquence*, in an Age wherein *That*  
 " *perfect Orator* lives, is to choose an Argument upon  
 " which *He himself* must, of *Necessity*, be *Silent*."

SILENT! — Alas! He! This Oracle of Elo-  
 quence! must now HIMSELF, of *Necessity*, be silent  
 for *Ever* upon *Every* Argument! — Yet there is  
 no *speaking* in his *due Praise*; no Way for any *Sing's*  
 Man's *expressing* sufficient Sorrow for so General a  
 Loss! — For, when HE grew *silent*, *Oratory* was  
 struck *dumb*. — But silent he can never be! No!  
 all the Memorable Acts of his Illustrious Life *still*  
 speak, and speak *aloud*, to the *whole World*, this  
 one Great Truth, That whoever would be a *Fine*  
*Genleman*, a *Judge*, a *Scholar*, or a *Statesman*: That  
 whoever would be a *Great Man* while he *lives*, and  
 be esteem'd so when he is *dead*, must necessarily be-  
 come, in the first Place, a GOOD MAN.





T H E  
**TRUE BRITON.**

N U M B. XLI.

— *Servetur ad imitum*

*Qualis ab incepto processerit, & sibi constet. HON.*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21. 1723.

**I**N this Paper, I shall present my Reader with some General Characters thrown together relating to several Stations of Publick Life, in which all *Englishmen*, that may be hereafter any way concern'd, will, according to their *different* Pursuits and Behaviour, deserve the Appellation of *True* or *False Britons*.

THE First thing that a good *Minister* proposes to himself, is to act with inviolable Probity; to do every thing with a Principle of Charity, and a sincere Desire of procuring Daily more Good, and adding fresh Advantages to the Publick. He next studies and labours to make himself a Master of every Branch of his Business, to perfect himself in every Knowledge that appertains to his Post, and after having punctu-

punctually examined for what End it was instituted, resolves faithfully to fulfil all the Obligations that are incumbent upon him, to attain that important End.

THE very Moment a Creature, born under a Malevolent Planet, to become the Pest of Mankind, has pushed himself, at some Evil Critical Hour, into Office, the first Thing he thinks of (hugging himself at the pleasing Thought) is, That he has got a large Field of Opportunity, to *satisfy* every Call that his importune *Avarice* shall make, and every Wish that the Appetite of *Ambition* shall prompt him to. He next, with greedy and insatiate Eyes, inquires, What Profits are to be made of *every Thing* that passes through his Clutches; informs himself by what *Tricks* and *Artifices* the most *Wicked* and *Cunning* of his *Predecessors* used to advance their different Views of *Gain* in every *profitable* Branch of their Office, and racks his Brain to discover, if there be any further Stratagema and *Finesses* to be used, by which he may stain all, or any of those Advantages, to a higher Pitch: He then resolves to try them all at every Hazard, without Regard to Prince or People, that he may enrich and aggrandize himself: He makes his *Prince* hated by the *People*, and himself he makes *necessary* to the *Prince*: He flatters his Prince, and tempts Him to rob His People, by persuading Him, that He may lawfully do it, and then he, just as lawfully, robs the Prince: He raises *Factions*, joins with the *Bad Party*, to suppress the *Good*; and plunders *this*, to maintain the *other*; till at last, he has gain'd his full View, and sees the Prince, who, by his Flattery, aimed to be *falsely* Great,

*Great, become really Little; sees Him, while he otherwise appears a too Absolute Lord, become an Absolute Slave to the Will and Pleasure of him His single Servant, His Favourite, who has push'd every living Mortal beside out of His Service or his Sight. Thus SELF is the End of all the Evil Minister's Pursuits; SELF is the sole View throughout all the Parts of his Life's whole Conduct; and the Soul of his Actions, is the Love of Himself. He cannot endure the mean and slavish Thought of being born to serve the World, but dreams, with very much Propriety, and with true Greatness of Mind, that the whole World is purposely made and created to serve him alone, and that those who will not, are justly to be made as miserable as he can render them.*

WITH these different Views, *Good and Evil Ministers* set out; and the surest Way we have to guess early at them and their Designs, consists in taking an exact Survey of the Characters of those whom they chuse for their Companions; whom they cause to be preferred to Places of Honour, Trust and Profit, and what Sort of Men they mostly encourage.

A *GOOD Minister* chuses for his Companions those Persons of the *Ancient Nobility* of that Kingdom where he presides, whose *Education* gives the greatest Promises of their having *true Probity* and *Purity of Manners*, and who have never lain under any *Just* and *Publick Censure*, for degenerating into Actions unsuitable to their *High Birth* and *Dignity*; and who have never been taxed of departing from those Principles, which justly lifted their Ancestors to  
the

the chief Degrees of Honour. A good Minister courts the Company of such Men as these; and when he finds any of them particularly superior to the rest, in a vast Capacity; and in having a large Experience, accompanied with a sufficient Stock of Judgment and Prudence; when he finds any that are singularly remarkable for their *Courage* and *Magnanimity*, and not inflav'd by the Passions of *Love*, *Hatred*, *Revenge*, &c. when he finds any that have distinguished themselves by demonstrating, on all Occasions, a strict Adherence to Justice, and shewing Patience and Commiseration with Regard to his Fellow Creatures; These are the Men whom he promotes to such Stations, either in the *Priesthood*, or the *Administration*, as are most suitable to their respective Abilities and Inclinations.

LET us now see, what a special Company attend and wait upon the Person of a *wicked Politician*, and swell up the Pomp of Vice: Degenerate Nobles, who have wasted their Fortunes in the Sins of their Youth, by the prodigal Pursuits of Debauchery, must patch up a ruin'd Estate, by complying to fall in with more Criminal Measures than they had taken to consume it; These are the Persons who make the Principal Figure among all his Acquaintance: Excepting these, you shall not see any other Persons about him, but Wretches of *low Birth* and *vile Education*, whose Names and Families were Strangers to the World, till they became *dignify'd Upstarts*, the *Misbrodens* of his Favour, sprung up in the *Night-time* of his *dark Administration*. Out of these he makes a *Baneful Collection* of *State-Weeds*, and scatters them o'er the whole Land to *poison* and *infect* it, and calls them

*His Prelates, His Judges, His Magistrates, His Officers, and Soldiers, &c.*

LET us next consider all these very *different* Persons, supposed to be chosen by such *different* Ministers, in their respective Posts and Stations, that we may judge what a vast Sum of Important Good, or Mischiefs, may be raised in the World by One *Honest*, or *Dishonest* Man.

WHEN a *good* and *pious* Priest is, through the Means of an *Honest* Minister, recommended to high Preferments in the Church, a whole Clergy are encouraged to be virtuous, by so wholesome an Example; nor is the Post in which he is placed, so much for his own Benefit, as for the Benefit of others. But when a *wicked* Priest is led, by the Powerful Hand of an Evil Minister, into Ecclesiastical Promotions, he receives the Place, which ought to be only the Station of a *Saint*, as Wages for committing *any* *Impiety*, that his flagitious Patron shall require at his Hands: He knows he is made a Prelate merely upon the strong Presumption which his politick-Friend entertains in his Favour, that he will never be in Danger of turning a *Changeling* to his *Infidel* Principles, and becoming a Christian; and is therefore resolved to sacrifice any Rights of the Church within his Power, to gratify the Pleasure of his Promoter: He knows he is a *real Devil*, only transform'd into a *seeming Angel* of Light; and, accordingly, takes extraordinary Pains to instruct all his Inferiors, that, as they hope for Preferment in this World, they must follow his Example, with regard to the next,  
and

and work out their Damnation, as others do their Salvation, with Fear and Trembling.

IF we take a Step from the *Temple* to the *Courts of Justice*, we shall find the Good and Evil Politicians creating as great Differences at the *Tribunal* as at the *Altar*.

THE *Honest JUDGE* deems no Man a Criminal, tho' there lies against him the highest Accusation, till it is plainly and demonstratively proved. A *Disbonest one*, goes pre-determin'd to the Bench; he asks what Sentence he is to pronounce, before he comes to the Seat of Justice and Judgment: If he finds the Party before him wrongfully accused, injured Innocence makes no Impression on his Conscience, which he has made Sale of to a more powerful Interest: After he has heard the Tryal, he gives his Opinion according to the Instructions he received before he heard it. The *Disbonest Judge* follows his *Passions*, not his *Reason*: The *Honest one* pursues not his *Passions*, but adheres strictly and religiously to his *Reason*; is never out of Temper, but patient to hear, and vigilant to discern and discover the *Truth*. The *Honest one* forms his Judgment by the *Laws*: The other makes wrested *Interpretations*, and moulds and fashions the *Laws* to his Judgment. The *Corrupt Judge* keeps Company with Great and Wealthy Men, who have both the Power and Inclination to oppress; is always very quick of bearing on that Side, but ever deaf on the other Side, where the Poor and Honest Indigent pour forth his unprofitable Complaints, and pleads, and labours in vain, for Access to Justice. The *Upright Judge* makes no Exception of Persons, he has no Re-  
A 2 2
gard

gard to Dignity, Authority, or Wealth: Whether a Thing be *Right* or *Wrong*, is all the Question he considers to lie regularly before him; and if the *Greatest* Man on Earth is in the *Wrong* in opposing the *Least*, the *Greatest* Man is certain to be cast. Both the *Partial* and *Impartial Judge* keep a watchful Eye over Pleadings, Solicitors, Witnesses, and the Under-Officers of the Court, but with Views that are widely different. Before the *Impartial Judge*, the Pleader stands in *Awe*: He is afraid of betraying any *Corruption* in his *Manners*; he does not dare to gild and gloss over a bad Cause with Reasonings that carry no real Force with them; He is afraid of treating Persons wrongfully accused, whom impious Greatness would have to be oppress'd, with any Haughtiness of Behaviour, or Invective Insolence of Speech; He knows, that such a Demeanour will shew, before the Eyes of *such* a Judge, either an *Ignorance* of his *Profession*, or a *Predominance* of his *Malice*. The *False Evidence*, either never presumes to come there, or if he is harden'd enough to presume so far, yet, overwhelmed with Fear and Remorse at *such* a Judge's Presence, he discovers almost all his Guilt in his Face, before he opens his Lips. Inferior Officers use their Prisoners well; for a *good Judge* will visit the Prison on Occasion, and take Care, that the Imprison'd may not want what it is proper and necessary for them to have.

Under the *Partial Judge*, Inferior Officers shall commit Murder with Impunity, nay, by Authority, under Pretext, that they kill'd for Righteousness Sake. Pleadings shall be encouraged in *false Reasonings*; be applauded for the *elaborate Sophistry* of their mercenary Harangues. Under the wicked Judge, shall *false Evidences*, the Bane of the Publick Weal, take  
Shel



Shelter; they shall appear with Confidence, shall have their Crimes pointed out to them of which they are to accuse the Innocent, that they may *lye efficaciously*, and be *perjured to the Purpose*. The *base Informer* may reasonably let his wicked Heart swell within him with Impudence and Assurance, when he full well knows, that he is *less base* than the *Judge*, who *supremely* authorizes the Cruelty: For while such an Evidence does only, as a *Tool*, perjure himself, perhaps, to bring about the Death of an Innocent Man, such a Judge *confirms*, and, in a manner, *executes* and *sanctifies* the murdering Oath, with the coloured and painted Face of *Legality* and *Justice*.

IF from the *Temple*, and the *Courts of Justice*, we go and take a Review of the *CAMP*, and examine well the *Military Officers*, that act under a good or bad Administration, how vast is the Difference, that we shall meet with, in their *Discipline* and *Conduct*?

THE *Disbonourable* and *Wicked SOLDIER* is a *Liar* to the Noble Profession which he pretends to undertake, and is, what *Dr. South* describes a *Liar* to be, *A Coward towards Men, and a Bravo towards God*: He basely acts as he is directed by the private Passions of *Lust, Cruelty, Avarice, Ambition, Revenge*. An *Honourable Soldier* has no Passions of his own; advancing the *Glory* and *Safety* of his *Country*, and repelling the *Injuries* it receives, are the *Publick Motives* by which his *Valour* and *Prowess* are acted; The *Brave Soldier* receives *Wounds* from his *Foe* in the *Field* without *Resentment*, and *Kills* without *Anger*; he thinks it sweet to venture, nay,

to lay down his Life for his *Country's* Service. On the other Hand, do but place a Barbarous Bribe of Gold in the *Base Soldier's* Way, he will frame an *Ambascade* for his Brother Officer; he will compass the Death of his *Countryman* and his *Friend*, and share the Booty with a *Foreigner* and a *Stranger*. The *Cruelty* of a *Fearful Russian*, and the *Cunning* of an *Enterprising Thief*, are Qualifications which, in the Brutal Officer I am describing, supply the Place of *Fortitude* and *Wisdom*: He robs the *Common Soldiers* of their *Bread*, their *Cloaths*, and their *Pay*, and very bravely hangs them if they murmur; then prances about in gilded Coaches, with an effeminate Train of Lacqueys, and gives to Pimps and Whores, what he steals from the poor half-starv'd Centinel in the Field. Thus, with the *Cunning* of a *Thief*, and the *Cruelty* of a *Russian*, will he venture to deserve the Publick Death of a Dog; But if his *Country's Cause*, or his *own Honour*, should call him forth against a *Fee* in the broad Face of open Day, he is so cool and deliberate a Fighter, that he shrinks his Dastard Head, and then calls his base Way of declining Danger, *Prudent Conduct*; though this Man of singular Prowess would, perhaps, on a more unjust Occasion, and even to his *Country's Ruin*, expose the Lives of Thousands, each single Man of whom was braver than himself. How much more to be dreaded than a Plague is *such* an Officer? And yet it is always *such* an Officer, that an *Evil Minister* does constantly pick out and employ as his fast Friend, if he sees the Day of Danger and Distress approaching him.

T O return therefore, after summing up these several Calamities in our Thoughts, to the prime  
Source

Source and Origin of them all, What shall we say of any *Impious Minister*, who chuses a **PRELATE** to betray the Rights of a Church into his prophane rapacious and violating Hands? What of the *Unjust Minister*, who procures a *Monstrous JUDGE*, to condemn Innocence by the Concurring Perjury of seditious Witnesses, which they are oblig'd, by their own previous Oaths, to preserve from Oppression? What of any *Cruel Minister*, who picks and chuses out *Robbers* and *Ruffians*, for his **OFFICERS** and **SOLDIERS**, to ruin and plunder their Fellow-Subjects, whom they should venture their Lives to protect?

**T**O what shall we liken such a Gigantick Monster of Impiety, when he happens to infest any State? May we not most properly call him, *The Tempest that shakes the Age* in which he lives? When I place before my Eyes, the melancholy Prospect of the late *Inundation* in *Spain*, that swallowed an Assembly of Princes, Dukes, Lords, and Prelates, that were innocently met for Recreation, I tremble at the dreadful Accident; But still I feel a greater Shock when I read some Historical Accounts of the Ravages committed by the *Guise's*, the *Alva's*, and other *Wicked Ministers* of past Ages: They were more dangerous and rapid *Torrents*, and bore down greater Men by the *Stream* of *Faction*, and the *fatal Tyde* of those Times, and more and greater Personages perished by those *Prodigies* in Mischief.

**A**S it is only during a Calm, that Men can fortify themselves against such *Tempestuous Accidents*; so the most seasonable and secure Time of Arming our-

selves against such Evil Ministers, is, when we enjoy  
 the Benefit of a Wise, Virtuous, and Happy Admin-  
 istration. At this Time, when the *Leading* Lights  
 of our CHURCH preserve it in all its Primitive  
 Purity; At this Time, when the Seats of our Courts  
 of JUSTICE are fill'd with Persons of undoubted  
 Integrity, Probity, and Compassion; At this Time,  
 when the ADMINISTRATION is lodged in the  
 Best and Noblest Hands that we could wish to desire;  
 we may seasonably and securely per the sharpest In-  
 vectives against the *Oppressive* MINISTER, the  
*Profane* and *Sacriligious* PRIEST, the *Unjust* and  
*Corrupt* JUDGE, the *Plundering* and *Cruel*  
 OFFICER. The Good ought to die but once, and  
 live for Ever after with Honour in our Memories;  
 but the *Wicked* ought to die every Day; Therefore,  
 we daily apprehend flesh *Criminals* in our Closets,  
 as we read fresh *Histories*. We pass fresh Sentences  
 upon them in our daily Conversations, and we put  
 them to Death in *Effigy* every Night upon our Stages,  
 in order to stir up in Every Living Man, such a just  
 Abhorrence against them, that if any such in future  
 Times should arise, and make Innocent Men suffer,  
 they may be probably brought to bear a *real Part* in  
 the Catastrophe of those *Bloody Tragedies* which they  
*really* act on the Theatre of the World, to which  
 the Author is much obliged to the Lady who  
 calls herself PHILOCLEA, and thinks he cannot  
 better acknowledge the Favour of her just Rebuke,  
 than by inserting her Letter at length the first Oppor-  
 tunity, and in the mean while, wishes the Con-  
 tinuance of her Correspondence.

THE Gentleman who is so pressing to have the Subject of the Dissenters continued and concluded, is hereby assured, that the last Letter on that Subject from our kind Correspondent *ORTHODOX*, shall be inserted in our next.

THE Gentleman who stiles himself *ARTIME-DORUS*, and gives us so ample an Account of his *DREAMS*; is desired to excuse our not inserting his Letter, according to his earnest Request, till he *dreams* again upon the same Subject, that we may be able to judge, whether there be any Likelihood of expounding them, without the Help of a *Secretary of State*.

TO the Request of *ANDROGENA*, as desired, the Author cheerfully answers *YES*.





THE  
**TRUE BRITON.**

NUMB. XLII.

*In pejora datur, suadetque licentia luxum.* CLAUD.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1723.

To the Author of the **TRUE BRITON.**

S I R,



SHALL now briefly pursue the History of the Actions of our Sectaries of different Denominations, where I left off, at the Deposition and Imprisonment of *Mary Queen of Scots.*

AFTER the Kirk had taken several Methods to fetter the Conscience of the Young King as he grew up, and to secure themselves and propagate their Discipline, not being satisfy'd with his Prime Minister, they contrived to seize the King's Person; which Project they executed with such Irreverence and Inhumanity, that the King burst into Tears; but was told by

## N<sup>o</sup> 42. *The TRUE BRITON.* 361

by one of them, *That 'twas no Matter for his Tears, Better Bairns should weep, than Beard-Men.* Then extorting from him a Proclamation of Consent, they carried him to *Edinburgh*, where the Assembly of Ministers justify'd the traiterous Action, singing in Triumph as they went up the *High-street* the 124th Psalm, *Now Israel may say, &c.* And the King afterwards desiring the Magistrates of the City to treat splendidly two Ambassadors of *France* of the first Rank (himself being not suffer'd to do any thing) and they appointing a Day for that Purpose, the Ministers, determin'd to shew their Power, and to insult the King and Ambassadors, Proclaim'd a Fast for that very Day; and fulminated the Church Censures against the Magistrates and all who were at the Entertainment for not observing it. Nor was this to be so much wonder'd at, since the same Kirk, when the King was arriv'd at a maturer Age, thought fit absolutely to refuse their Sovereign's Request, to pray for his Mother then in Danger of Death in *England*.

INNUMERABLE were the Influences and Provocations of the *Holy Brethren*, to their Sovereign from his Accession to the *Scottish Throne* to the Time of his being called to succeed Queen *Elizabeth*; which I shall pass by, referring to \* *Archbishop Spotswood, Haylin, Forvis*, and other Eminent Persons of which also King *James* himself took handsome Notice in the Conferences appointed by that Prince at *Hampton Court*, for reconciling Religious Differences,

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\* *See Spotswood's Hist. P. 117, 118, 119, 127, 130, 136.*

WHILE

WHILE these Matters were transacting by the *Scottish* Presbytery, their Brethren in *England* (altho' by Means of the Resolution and Sreadiness of *Queen Elizabeth*, they had not the same Power) sufficiently manifested the like Inclinations, and that they were actuated by the same Seditious Principles. *Carrwright*, a furious Divine of *Cambridge*, having had Dr. *Preston* preferred to him by the *Queen* in a Disputation held in her Presence, was so enraged, that he took a Turn to *Geneva*, where imbibing the Doctrines and Discipline of *Calvin*, he returned to *England*, flaming with Rage against the Constitution of the *English* Church. And being expell'd his College for his violent Discourses, first set up Conventicles in Opposition to the Government, and he and his Followers, proceeding with all the Solemnity of a Legal Council, took upon them by their own Authority (what would have brought upon the whole Clergy of the Establish'd Church a *Premunure* to have pretended to, without the Sovereign's Consent) to Decree Canons and Injunctions; to enforce their Authority by Church Censures, and to arrogate to themselves Powers of Excommunication, &c. according to the Discipline of *Calvin*.

AND as soon as some of their Brethren in *Scotland* in his Publick Sermon (which the whole Kirk so far approved) as to espouse the Preacher's Cause against the King, who had order'd him to be prosecuted) had affirm'd; \**That all Kings were the Devils Bairns; That the King's Heart was treacherous; and that the*

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*Spawford, p. 423, 424.*

*Devil*



Devil was in the Court, and the Gutter of it: That the Queen of England was an Atheist and a wicked Woman: That the Nobility and Lords were Miscreants, Bribers, Degenerated, Godless Dissemblers, and Enemies to the Church: That the Council were Holliglasses, Cormorants, and Men of no Religion. And in his Prayer for Queen ANNE, had said, We must pray for her for the Fashion; but we have no Cause; she will never do us Good; And even proceeded to back his Violences with raising Armed Men in a rebellious Manner: So in England, nothing but scurrilous Invectives were seen against the Bishops and Clergy of the Church: Queen Elizabeth was told openly in a Sermon preach'd by one Dering, That she was like an unbram'd Heifer, that would not be rid'd by God's People, but obstructed his Discipline. The best Names they had for Whigge<sup>r</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury, were, \* The Beelzebub of Canterbury; Pope; Caiphas; The Esau of Lambeth; The Bloody Butcher of the Saints; Antichristian Beast; and Cursed Tyrant. The Bishops they call'd § Bastardly Governors of the Church; Priests of the Devil; Petty Popes; Petty Antichrists; Cozening Knaves; Liars; Dogs; &c. The inferior Clergy were called ¶ Popish Priests; Monks; Drunkards; Hogs; Wolves; Dogs; Agents for Antichrist; bloody Murderers of Souls, and Robbers of Christ's Church; and from thence they proceeded to menace the Parliament with an Interdiction (in a pretended Supplication Sign'd by 10,000

\* Martin-Mar-prlate, c. 1.

† Letter from Scotland.

§ Any Work for a Cooper, p. 20, 21, 22.

¶ Udall's Dialog, c. 1.

Hands) if they would not *Establish the Discipline* ;  
 \* And that if they refused *speedily* to do so, they  
 would be in *Danger* of the terrible *Mess* of God's  
*Wrath*, both in this *Life* and that to come : That they  
 might well hope for the *Curse* of the *Law*, but the  
*Favour* and  *Loving Countenance* of *Jesus Christ* they  
 should never see ; and all this at a Time, when the  
*Spanish Armado* was hovering about the *Coast*, and  
 threatening *Destruction* both to *Church* and *State*.

BY this Time, I believe, I may spare my Reader  
 and self a great deal of Trouble ; and it will not be  
 wonder'd that such abominable Blasphemers and En-  
 thusiasts as *Hacket*, *Coppinger* and *Arsbington* (who  
 were encouraged by *Cartwright* and other Puritan  
 Ministers) should be produced from so much Confu-  
 sion : That the Division of the *Presbyterians*, should  
 occasion so many Sub-Divisions, and particularly the  
 Sect of the *Brownists*, or *Independents*, who pretended  
 to refine upon the *Geneva Discipline*, and Vindicated  
 their Separation from them, with the same Reasons  
 and with the like Freedom of Speech, that the *Pres-  
 byterians* had used against the Church ; which begot  
 between the two Sects a greater Animosity to each  
 other, than they had to the Establish'd Religion.  
*Brown* and *Cartwright* afterwards, indeed, seem'd  
 sorry for the Mischiefs they had been guilty of, and  
 conform'd to the Church of *England* ; but found no  
 Conforming Followers of their Congregation, having  
 raised a Devil they were not able to lay.

NEITHER will my Readers now be surprized at the black Transactions of the same Set of Men; of the Perfidies, Rebellions and Murders which they were guilty of in the succeeding Reigns. He will be able by this Time, to expect from the Arbitrary Temper and Lordliness of *Calvin*, who had in a Manner, made himself, and the Ministers his Successors, Absolute Lords of *Geneva*; from the Insolence and Seditious Spirit of *Knox*, *Malvil*, and indeed the whole General Assembly of *Scots* Ministers; from their Deposition first of the Queen Regent, and afterwards of their unhappy Queen *Mary*; from their Desires of Destroying that Princess, and their Seizure of the Person of their King; and from the whole Series of their succeeding Behaviour to that Prince: Confirm'd by the Instances I have given of the like Spirit in our *English* Puritans. From all these Instances, I say, and from such Principles and Practices, the Reader will be naturally led to account for and expect, the black Tragedy which follow'd; the Bloody Civil Wars; and the Murder of King *Charles* the First.

I SHALL not offer to defend some of the Miscarriages of the Reign of King *Charles* the First; but certainly the Provocations that unhappy Prince met with, are of such a Nature, as admit of no Parallel or Excuse. Some unhappy Steps, (in which however he was countenanc'd by the Opinion of his *Time serving Judges*,) render'd his Administration obnoxious to many excellent Patriots, who little dream'd of the Consequences that ensu'd from their too rash Endeavours to procure a Redress of Grievances.

vances. And when the Breach was unhappily begun between the King and his Parliament, the fiery Spirit of the *Puritans*, exerted itself to make the Wound incurable. Having obtain'd a Majority in the Parliament, their Preachers struck at the King, under the odious Characters of *Achan*, *Saul* and *Jeroboam*, and extoll'd the Zeal of *Phineas*, *Ehud*, &c. thereby inculcating the Assassination of his Sacred Person: And to quicken the violent Spirits to Arms, pronounced against all that were slack, the Curses of the Old Testament, *Curse ye Meroz*, &c.

THEN turning their Fury against *Episcopacy* and the *Liturgy*, they procured a Bill to abolish Both: Imprison'd the Bishops, Beheaded the Archbishop; and the most enormous Sacrileges and Defacing of Churches succeeded; the Puritan Preachers, who were Chaplains in the Army, standing by to encourage the rude Soldiers. To this succeeded the Solemn *League and Covenant* from *Scotland*; for refusing to take which, most of the Episcopal Ministers were ejected; in *London* only, 115 Ministers being depriv'd and left to starve, while the most virulent Sectaries were put into their Places; And finally, the *Presbyterian* Discipline was set up for Three Years, to try how it would suit with the Inclinations of the divided Multitude, and the lesser Benefices were filled with Trades-men and Soldiers, who, according to the Custom of those *Pious Times*, were taught to *Fight and Pray*. Mean while the Episcopal Clergy were forced to depend on the Hospitality of Great Mens Tables for their Subsistence, or to teach School, even which Favour, at last, that they might be utterly distress'd and starv'd out, was prohibited to them under

under the severest Penalties. — And this by that Set of Men, who; but a few Years before; pleaded so earnestly for *Liberty of Conscience*; and insulted their Prince and the Establish'd Church with perpetual Clamours in that Behalf; and who have been ever since deafning the Nation on the same Account; 'till they have lifted themselves into a State of Security; that many among them at this Day, boast to be equivalent to the *Establishment* of the Church.

AND now, to shew the Remorsefulness of their Principles; and how able they were to go thorough with their Work; their Sovereign is arraign'd by a Set of Miscreants; Sentence pronounced upon him, and finally his Head struck off, in the Face of the Sun; and before the Gates of his own Palace.

IN vain would the *Presbyterians* endeavour to clear themselves of this horrid Fact; for, besides that the *Independents*, who 'tis confess'd; were the prevailing Party at this barbarous Execution; were a Sect produced from themselves, and probably would never have been heard of, if the *Presbyterians* (who are certainly the Original Authors of all the other Separations) had not begun the Schism; 'tis well known That they were the sole Occasions of all the Contusions, and they never repented any of the Hardships to which they had subjected the King, nor even his being reduced a Prisoner to the Mercy of his implacable Enemies; But when indeed, they would have prescribed to *Oliver* as they had done to their Princes, and found he would not bear with their Insolence; on the contrary, subjecting them beneath the Yoke of their Royal Sect, and making them undergo great

er. Hardships than they had ever complained of in the Reign of their Lawful Sovereign; then they had Recourse to their old Trade of Plotting and Sedition. And this is excellently remarked by the Great *Milton*, who, however Faulty he was to his King, certainly had good Opportunities of knowing them, and their Principles and Views. His Words are these;

*THEN certain Presbyterian Ministers, says he, formerly most inveterate Enemies of King Charles, but now grieving that the Independent Party was preferred before them, began to be mutinous, and to find Fault with the Sentence of the Parliament upon the King; not being angry with the Fact itself, but because it was not done by their Faction. In another Place he charges them with juggling and paltering with the World, bandying and bearing Arms against their King, divesting him, disanointing him, nay, cursing him all over in their Pulpits, Pamphlets, &c. and then not only turning Revolters from those Principles which only could at first move them, but laying a Stain of Disloyalty on those Proceedings which were the necessary Consequences of their own former Actions. He rallies them for citing the King so often under the Name of Tyrant, in the Hearing of God, of Angels, and the Holy Church assembled, and their charging him with spilling of more innocent Blood by far, than Nero did: And demands of them, Whether their now Re-canting Ministers had not preach'd against him as a REPROBATE, INCURABLE, an Enemy to GOD and his CHURCH, mark'd for DESTRUCTION, and therefore not to be treated with. He ridicules their fine Clause in the Covenant to preserve his Person, Crown, and Dignity, as inserted there*

*there by some dodging Casuist, with more Craft, than Sincerity, to mitigate the Matter in Case of ill Success: He calls their Preachers, Ministers of SEDITION, not of the GOSPEL, who, while they saw it manifestly tend to Civil War and Bloodshed, never ceas'd exasperating the People against him; and now they see it likely to breed New Commotions, cease not to incite others against the People that have saved them from him, as if SEDITION were their only Aim, whether Against Him, or For Him. In this Manner, by the just Judgment of God, did these virulent Sectaries triumph over and condemn one another. And it may be worthy Remark, That whether the Independants or Presbyterians had the greater Hand in cutting off the King's Head, there is so little Difference in their Opinions and Principles, that at this Day, they are join'd in Communion all over England.*

AND now happy was the Man who could become the Author of a new Sect. All the execrable Heresies of Old Times were reviv'd, and nothing was so horrid, blasphemous or shocking, but some Teachers of that Time deliver'd from their Pulpits as the Word of God, and for their Pains, were applauded by the People as the Discoverers of some rare Truth. Hence sprang innumerable Sects and Hereticks, as *Agitators, Levelers, Mutineers, Ranters, Seekers, Quakers, Muggletonians, Anabaptists, Fifth-Monarchy-Men, &c.* And here permit me to give the Words of *Whitlock*, (who had a great Hand in the Confusion of those Times) in his *Manuscript Additions* to his *Memoirs*, which give a lively Description of those Distractions.

*SUCCESS*, says he, rais'd in them a *Haughtiness of Mind*, and a *Roaring of Imagination*; every one endeavour'd or expected to have his private *Fancy put in Action*, and to be little less than *Princes*; To effect something dream'd on to this Purpose, many *Wits* were working. Some were for one Thing, some for another; all were violent in their Way, and brought into several *Parties and Factions*. The Army was divided into *Levellers and Disciplin'd Soldiers*; The Parliament was divided into *Royalists and Republicans*; The whole Nation was divided into *Cavaliers and Parliamentarians*. The *Parliamentarians* were again divided into *Presbyterians, Independants, Anabaptists, Fifth-Monarchy-Men, and many other Persuasions*; and none but the most miserable of all Cures for the sick State, no *Unity of Divisions*, but by a greater Calamity, The *Sword*. — The *English* were at *Variance* with the *Scots and Irish*; the *Scots* at *Variance* with the *English and Irish*; the *Irish* hating both the *English and Scots*. The *Native Irish* differ'd among themselves, *Rebels from Rebels*, *Rebels from the English Cavaliers*, *Rebels and English Cavaliers* there in War against the *Parliament*. In *Scotland* was *Contention* between the *Kirk Party and the State*; both were jealous of the *King's Party*; all of them together designing against *England*. In *England* the *Civil War* not fully appeased between the *King and the Parliament*; *Contention* among the *Parliament Party* between the *Royalists and Republicans*, and again between the *Presbyterians and Independants*.

AND here, for the Diversion of my Reader, and a little to relieve his Mind from the melancholy Subject,



jest, I will subjoin a Copy of a Jury return'd in the County of *Sussex*, in those Fanatical Times: The Christian Names whereof then in Fashion, will be a good Proof that the Religion of those Precisians was only *Nominal* and *meer Sound*. The Reverend Mr. *Brome* in the Second Edition of his *Travels over England*, p. 279. says, It was given him by a Worthy Hand, and inserts it for the same Reason that I do, *viz.* To shew the Superstitious Vanity of that Age.

Accepted Trevor, of Northam.  
Redeemed Compton, of Battle;  
Faith-not Hewet, of Heathfield;  
Make-Peace Heaton, of Hare.  
God-Reward Smart, of Fifehurst.  
Stand-fast-on-High Stringer, of Crow-  
hurst,  
Earth Adams, of Warbleton.  
Called Lower, of the same.  
Kill-Sin Pimple, of Witham;

Return Spelman, of Woking.  
Be-Faithful Joiner, of Bridding.  
Fly-Debate Roberts, of the same.  
Fight-the-Good-Fight-of-Faith-White,  
of Emer.  
More-Fruit Fowler, of East-Hadley.  
Hope-for Bending, of the same.  
Graceful Harding, of Lewes.  
Weep-not Billing, of the same.  
Meek Brewer, of Okcham,

THE Invitation made to King *Charles II.* by the *Scots*, and their Proclaiming and Crowning Him at *Scoon*, seem to plead a little in the Favour of that Nation: But whoever reflects on the Dishonourable Conditions imposed on that Prince, as Conditions *sine qua non*, and their obliging him to take the *Covenant*: Their Conduct towards him when he had trusted himself among them: The perpetual Reproaches to him of the Sins of his *Father's House*, whereof they extorted from him an unparallell'd Acknowledgment, and to which they always imputed to his very Face, the ill Success of their Arms or Councils: The Absoluteness and Enthusiastic Superstition of their Ministers, who, on different Pretences, always hinder'd and prevented the Advantages that might have been taken

to advance his Cause; and who always in a Committee attended him and imbarrafs'd his Counsels and Arms, and made him no better than a Prisoner at their Wills; avowing in his Presence all the Evils of the past Twelve Years: Whoever, I say, reflects on these Things, will find very little Cause to applaud their Behaviour to their injur'd Sovereign; or to wonder, that that Prince received such Impressions of their Violences and Hypocrisy, as laid the Sectaries under some Hardships on his Restoration, when he saw they were not to be reclaim'd by Indulgence. However,

IN the first Two Years after the King's Return, those who had unjustly usurp'd the Livings of the Episcopal Clergy, and had by their Writings and Preachings promoted the Rebellion, were not only exempted from Punishment, but, where the ancient Pastors were dead, were suffer'd to retain their Livings, notwithstanding, thro' the Irregularity of their Admission, they were void in Law.

BUT a Conference that was appointed in the Beginning of that Reign, between the Clergy of the Church and the principal Teachers of the Dissenters, coming to nothing, thro' the Unreasonableness of their Demands, and they setting up new Conventicles to propagate their Schism, in Defiance of the Laws, where all Sorts of Tradesmen were admitted Preachers; these Proceedings bore so great a Resemblance to the Beginnings of their former Commotions, that the Administration was very well warranted to use some Rigors to bridle and restrain those factious Spirits, before it became too late,

THE

THE flattering Conduct of the Sectaries in the Reign of King *James II.* (while that mistaken Prince was imprisoning the Bishops of the Church of *England*, and laying the Episcopal Clergy under all manner of Hardships, for the Noble Stand which they made against Popery) their sordid Compliances, and Courtships, and their Silence in the great Exigencies of that critical Juncture, when the Protestant Religion was at Stake; will ever be remember'd, to the Glory of the one, and the Disgrace of the other. But at length the Abdication of that Prince, and the Accession of King *William* and Queen *Mary* to the Throne, having procur'd for the Dissenters of all Denominations an Act of Indulgence to exempt them from those Penal Laws which enjoyn'd Uniformity, they now pretended to stand upon an equal Foot with the Establishment, and to share equally the Honours and Preferments of the State. And to be brief, their whole Conduct ever since, and the Insults they have made, and still continue to make, upon the Establish'd Church, in all their Writings and Sermons, sufficiently evince, That they have not so well merited the Favours they have received, as it were to be wish'd, or as it might be expected from common Gratitude; from their clamorous Pretensions to *Moderation*, and from Consciences *truly scrupulous*. And of this I might give innumerable Instances; but having exceed'd all Bounds, I think it high Time to relieve the Reader's Patience.

IT is necessary, however, to add, That my Design in tracing the Actions of these Men from their first Source, proceeds not from a Desire of reviving Old

Disputes, or irritating the Minds of People. Nor do I wish that the Penal Laws were let loose against them. No Man is more for indulging Liberty to Conscience, truly scrupulous, nor a greater Enemy to Persecution in all Kinds, than my self. But when these unquiet Spirits, cannot content themselves in reasonable Bounds: When they grow upon Concession and Indulgence: When they so loudly every where boast of their Loyalty and Duty to the State, and stigmatize all Persons, of whatsoever Degree, that are Zealous for the Establish'd Church, as Betrayers of their Country; as Espousers of the Cause of a Popish Pretender; and as Enemies to the present Happy Establishment: In this Case, I thought it not improper to give a Brief History from Authentick Vouchers, of their Conduct and of their Principles; and by shewing the *Novelty* of their Claims to *Loyalty* and *Duty*, leave all the World to judge of the Sincerity of their Pretensions; and what Reliance is to be made upon them, if they were not to find it their Highest Interest, and if they had not wrought themselves into a Circumstance, which they think gives them Power not only to jostle with the Constitution, but on all Occasions to insult and asperse the Members of the Church of *England*, and all Orders and Degrees of Men they dislike, with Impunity.

I SHALL add one Reflection, That has frequently occur'd to me on revolving this Subject, *viz.* That it is principally owing to the Schisms and Extravagant Feuds set on Foot by the Dissenters, and their Insolent Behaviour to Princes and Magistrates, to the utter Confusion of all Order and good Government, that so sudden, and, as it seems, so effectual a Stop has been put to the amazing Progress of the Reformation

tion. For when the moderate *Roman Catholics*, who were convinced of the exorbitant Pretensions of the Court of *Rome*, and began to discover many Errors and Absurdities in that Church, saw the violent Declaimers against those Usurpations arrogate to themselves as great a Power; and that there were likely to be as many *Popes* as *Ministers*; When they saw that every one set up a different Mode from the former, and contended; with the most Unchristian Fury, for his own conceited Schemes; When they saw so many Instances of Sedition in the New Reformers; and beheld *Knox* and other Disciples of *Calvin*, and even the whole General Assembly of Presbyterian Ministers, opposing their Lawful Princes, and thro' unsufferable Pride and Arrogance, involving whole Nations in Blood and Confusion: When they saw the violent Pretensions and Practices of each Sect to propagate their Opinions, and the Bitterness wherewith they accused each other of Errors, left it very doubtful whether any of them were in the Right: That Unity was a Thing impossible to be expected from them: That the whole Reformation Abroad was founded on the Abolition of the Episcopal Dignity, which they were always taught to reverence, as intirely necessary for preserving Order and Government in the Church; And that it was endeavour'd, and at last carry'd to be destroy'd, by the furious Efforts of Rebellious Fanaticks in the only Nation where it was establish'd: When they beheld the Civil Wars of *England*, which made that unhappy Nation an *Aceldama*; the Murder of an Excellent Prince, even at the Doors of his own Palace; and the innumerable Blasphemies and Schisms which were spawn'd out of the Great Sect that began the Mischief, and at last overwhelm'd both that and  
the

the Kingdom: No wonder these miserable Confusions and Divisions put a Stop to the Progress of the Gospel: No wonder, That all Roman Catholick Princes having such Provocations to inflame their first Principles, which are naturally violent, endeavour'd to exterminate, by Barbarous Massacres, by Fire, and Sword, the Professors of a Religion, from which they apprehended the same shocking Consequences; and that so invincible a Prejudice has been ever since rivetted in their Breasts against a Religion which they thought allow'd of such Practices, and which appeared to them to struggle to lay its Dominion in Blood and Rebellion:

—Whereas, it is more than probable, that had the Church of *England* Discipline, which was established on the most Deliberate Consideration, and which keeps a *Medium* between Superstition on one Hand, and Confusion and Fanaticism on the other: A Discipline the best calculated in the World to preserve the Prerogative of the Prince, and the Liberties of the People; and to promote Unity and Order in all Degrees of Men: Had this Excellent Establishment been propagated Abroad instead of the furious and arrogating Discipline of *Geneva*, it is more than probable, I say, that all *Christendom* would not have set Bounds to the Reformation; and that *Rome* itself, the now so-much-boasted Center of Unity, would be remember'd for nothing but its ancient Triumphs, and present Conformity. I will not by further Apologies add to the Exorbitant Prolixity of this Letter; and remain,

S I R,

*Your Admirer and Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.

THE



THE  
TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. XLIII.

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*Flectere si nequeo Superos, Acheronta movebo. VIRG.*

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 28. 1723.

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THE following Letter came to Hand some Time since, but had the Misfortune to be mislaid. As it seems design'd for General Benefit, and may be still very seasonable for the Information of many unwary People, I shall give it a Place in this Paper.

*To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.*

S I R,

FOR the Publick Good, and in order to preserve Persons and Families from becoming a Prey to Harpies and Informers, I send you the following Observations on an Act passed in the last Sessions of Parliament, intituled, *An ACT to oblige all Persons being Papists in that Part of Great-Britain, called* Scot-

Scotland, and all Persons in Great-Britain, refusing or neglecting to take the Oaths appointed for the securing of his Majesty's Person and Government by several Acts herein mentioned, to register their Names and real Estates.

I. THIS Act extends to the several Persons in the Circumstances here under mentioned, though as yet very many of them think they are in no Danger from it, viz.

To Persons intituled to any real Estates in Reversion.

To Persons intituled to real Estates in Remainder.

To Tenants that hold any Lands or Tenements by Leases for Term of Years.

To married Ladies that have Jointures in Lands or Tenements.

To married Ladies that can claim any Thing by Dower.

II. THE Penalty for the bare Neglect and Omission of taking the Oaths by *Christmas*, or in Default thereof, of Registering Names and real Estates in such Manner as the Act requires, is of such kind, as if it were a Crime of a very high Nature, being no less than the Forfeiture of all such Estate: And to the End it may be more effectual, One Third Part goes to the Prosecutor.

III. PERSONS scrupling to swear, as *Quakers* (for there is no Exception in this Act for such) and all Persons, who, by Reason of a very weak State of Health, or by being disorder'd in Mind, are not able or fit to come Abroad, seem inevitably to fall under the Inconveniencies of this Law.

IV. BY



IV. BY this Act it will be a Flaw in the Title of any Estate, *any Number of Years hence*, and no Lawyer will pass a Title, where it cannot be proved and made to appear that the Persons now possessed, had taken the Oaths appointed by this Act; and in many Cases it will be requisite to prove that others likewise not in Possession had taken the Oaths.

V. BY this Act, if the Certificate which is given on taking the Oaths, should happen to be lost thro' Negligence, or any other Means, and in divers other Cases, the Title to many Peoples Estates may seem to depend on the Integrity of such Officers as shall be intrusted with the Lists of the Jurors Names; since by so easy a Piece of Forgery as that of erasing a Name, and inserting any other in its Room (as was suspected to be done by the Name of *Stangap* and others, in the late Times of general Frenzy) they may render it absolutely impossible, in very many Instances, for a Person to prove he has taken the Oaths. And for their Pains, they may claim One Third of the Estate for themselves, or any Body they shall set up to sue for it.

I PRESUME my Correspondent intends this Article as a particular Caution to the Ladies, who are generally not over careful of Papers of Consequence, excepting those of Gallantry.

To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.

SIR,

AS you have inserted in one of your former Papers the Loss of the *Roman* Liberty pathetically bewail'd by *EUCAN*; I hope these Thoughts upon one of *Rome's* greatest Patriots will not be unacceptable. If you'll give them a Place in your Paper,

*You'll Oblige, Yours,*

N. B.

I.

As o'er the swelling Ocean's Tide  
An Exile TULLY rode,  
The Bulwark of the *Roman* State,  
In Act, in Thought, a God,  
The sacred GENIUS of Majestick *Rome*  
Descends, and thus laments her Patriot's Doom.

II.

Farewel, renown'd in Arts, Farewel,  
Thus conquer'd by thy Foe,  
Of Honours, and of Friends depriv'd  
In Exile must thou go:  
Yet go content; thy Look, thy Will sedate,  
Thy Soul Superior to the Shocks of Fate.

III. Thy

III.

*Thy Wisdom was thy only Guilt,  
Thy Virtue thy Offence,  
With Godlike Zeal thou didst espouse  
Thy Country's just Defence:  
No sordid Hopes could charm thy steady Soul,  
No Fears, nor Guilty Numbers could controul.*

IV.

*What tho' the Noblest Patriots stood  
Firm to thy sacred Cause,  
What tho' Thou couldst display the Force  
Of Rhet'rick, and of Laws,  
No Eloquence, no Reason could repel  
Th' united Strength of \* CLODIUS, and of Hell.*

V.

*Thy Mighty Ruin to effect  
What Plots have been devis'd!  
What Arts! what Perjuries been us'd!  
What Laws and Rites despis'd!  
How many Fools and Knaves by Bribes allov'd,  
And Witnesses by Hopes and Threats secur'd!*

VI.

*And yet they act their dark Deceit  
Veil'd with a nice Disguise,  
And form a specious Shew of Right  
From Treachery and Lies;  
With Arbitrary Pow'r the People awe,  
And coin unjust Oppression into Law.*

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\* For the Information of our unlearned Readers, we shall take Notice, That *CLODIUS*, who procur'd the Banishment of *CICERO*, was a lewd Roman Senator, and made Tribune of the People. That great Orator was afterwards recall'd by *POMPEY*, and *CLODIUS* was killed by *MILLO*, a Person of Considerable Dignity; which the Genius of *ROME*, in the Two last Stan-  
zas, is here made particularly to point at, as in a Prophetick Manner.

## VII.

*Let CLODIUS now in Grandeur reign;  
 Let Him exert His Pow'r,  
 A Short-liv'd Monster in the Land,  
 The Monarch of an Hour;  
 Let Pageant Fools adore their Wooden God,  
 And act against their Senses at his Nod.*

## VIII.

*Pierc'd by an untimely Hand  
 To Earth shall He descend,  
 Tho' now with gaudy Honours boast'd,  
 Inglorious in his End.  
 Blest be the Man, who does his Pow'r defy,  
 And dares or truly Speak, or bravely Die.*



THE



# THE TRUE BRITON.

N U M B. XLIV.

*Corpus illi laborum tolerans, animus audax, sui obre-  
gens, in alios criminator, juxta adulatio et super-  
bia. Palam compositus pudor, intus summa apis-  
cendi libido.*

TACIT.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER, I. 1723.



HERE is a very particular Story re-  
lated by *HERODOTUS*, that re-  
curs to me upon the Subject which I  
design for this Day's Entertainment.

*Themistocles*, growing burthensome to  
the States Confederate with *Athens*, among the rest,  
laid Siege to the Island of *Andros*: And demanding  
thence an exorbitant Exaction, he sent in Word to  
the Inhabitants, That the *Athenians* came back'd  
with Two powerful Goddeses, **PERSUASION**  
and **FORCE**, who would take no Denial. The  
Reply the Others made to this odd Menace, was,  
That *Athens* must needs be prosperous under such  
Assistances; but that *Andros* likewise had a Brace of  
Deities on her Side, who had taken an unalterable

Affection to their Soil, POVERTY and IMPOSSIBILITY; and that these were an obstinate to listen to no Demands. That, therefore, all the Power of *Athens* could never get the better of their Islands *Inability*. The same Story is recounted by *Plutarch* with much Brevity, who quotes *Herodotus* for the Authority of it.

I LOOK upon *Themistocles*, in this Business, as playing the Part of a bad *Statesman*, who under Colour of collecting *Treasure* for the Government, was harassing its Friends, either to support his own *Cra-vings*, or to provide for *ill-founded Pensions*.

WHENEVER these Grievances are imposed on any Country, though it at first may have a Foundation to submit to them, it will soon be reduced to the Condition of *Andros*, POVERTY and IMPOSSIBILITY of *Payment*. The Consequences of the Latter will be *Factions* and *Distontents*, Murmurs at *Male-Administration*, and Attempts to throw off the *Oppression*.

AS often as any of these Calamities befall a Government, I believe one may venture to pronounce, That a bad *Statesman* is at the Head of Affairs. It may be objected, indeed, That whatever the Necessities of a Government are, the People are slow and unwilling to contribute to the Redress of them, and therefore think themselves pinch'd and distress'd whenever their Pockets are touch'd for the Publick. But it must be own'd too, on the other Hand, that the Populace have always Judgment enough to distinguish

guish between the *Taxes of Necessity*, and those of *Oppression and Wantonness*.

IT is the Happiness and Security of these Nations, that though we were at any Time to have an avaritious Prince, and he were to be sway'd by a corrupt Minister, yet we can have no Taxes extorted from Us, but such as the *Support of the Royal Prerogative*, and the *Defence of our Great Liberties demand*. For it is well known, the Consent of the Kingdom must be first had in its Parliament; And to our Honour be it said, A *Free ENGLISH Parliament* are not, like the *Scots of Old Rome*, to be *traffick'd* with for their *Voices*; or bought over to a Faction that have *other Interests* in View than those of their *Country*.

IT is pretty obvious to observe, if we will look Abroad into the *Political World*, that there are *Two Sorts of bad Statesmen*; both of whom bring the self-same Inconveniencies on a Land, but do not draw an equal Share of Prejudice and Odium on themselves.

THE First of these is the *Statesman*, who, either to procure the Reputation of consummate Policy, or otherways to ingratiate himself with his Prince, gets the *Subject* drain'd to enrich the *Treasury*, but grasps at no immense Acquisitions to *himself*, or *Family*. I think, I could point out Statesmen of this Cast of Thought, were it any thing to the Purpose, who have been of our own Growth.

THE Latter of These is the *Statesman*, who, having no *Howels of Compassion* for his *Country*, nor any Regard for his *Prince*, makes a *Prey* of the

*Publick*, only to swell his *own* Fortunes. He has no Respect to the Hatred of the People, or what Sentiments they entertain of his Proceedings, so he can find the Means of humbling their Spirits, by weakening their Purfes, and persecuting their Bodies. I hope I could not find a *Wretch* of this Stamp, that ever drew his Breath in *England*, had I Leisure to rack my *Memory*, or ransack our *Records*.

*SEJANUS* of *Rome*, infamous to latest Posterity, was, I think, a *Statesman* exactly of this Complexion. *Tacitus*, in the Words which I have prefix'd to this Discourse, gives a succinct, but comprehensive, Character of him. *He was a Man*, says he, *indefatigable, and patient of the Fatigues of Business, of a bold and daring Spirit, careful to screen himself, and busy to accuse Others; of a towering Pride, and condescending Flattery. To outward Appearance, one of Abstinence and Moderation, but in his Soul, a Person of insatiable Avarice and Craving.*

*HIS Ambition*, we find, led him to ingross a Number of *Employments*, as his *Thirst of Wealth* prompted him to make the *most* of every one of them. He persuaded his Prince to retire from *Rome*, and the Weight of Business, that he might have Opportunities to gratify his Ambitious Desire of holding the Reins of Empire; for though the *Senate* were join'd with him in the *Stile* of *Power*, they were but *Cyphers* in the *Exercise* of it.

I HAVE heard it made a Subject of Wonder, that, so wise as *Sejanus* was, and so sickle as he knew *Tiberius* to be; when he had enjoy'd every Degree, and



and attain'd the Topmost Round of *Ambition's* Ladder; when he had amass'd a Treasure exorbitant almost as his Wishes could be; he did not cover to withdraw himself from Employments that made him the Mark of Universal *Envy*, and, as he managed them, of Universal *Hatred* too.

IT is reasonable to imagine, that a Wise Man should think it high Time to *retire*, and *resign* his Employments, when he perceives that by his Conduct he has provok'd the *Disaffection* of the People against him. And I presume, it will be allow'd, that a *General Hatred* was never drawn upon any Man, without his being guilty of some *flagrant Corruptions* in his Administration.

BESIDES, when a *State-Officer* finds himself in these Circumstances, if he had any *Love* for his *Prince* (who is in Danger of sharing the Censure incurr'd by his *Minister*) or if he had the least Grain of *Honesty*, he would chuse to satisfy his Fellow Citizens, by quitting his Preferments, when it is plain that he can oblige them no other Way.

I AM very apprehensive, lest it should be objected to me, that I seem to forget that I am talking of *Statesmen*. It is an Objection too not to be pass'd over in Silence, That as such Officers as *Sejanus* was, do not take their Publick Offices with the Voice and Approbation of their Fellow Citizens, but to gratify their own Avarice and Lust of Power; it would be absurd to suppose that they should resign to please them. We shall find too, that such Statesmen, if we will take the Pains of judging by Retrospection, are like our *English* Massives, who never quit their Hold,

unless they are forc'd to it by a strong Hand. You may rate them, and call to them as long as you please, but 'tis in their Nature to worry the *Common-Wealth*, as long as she has a Drop of *Blood* in her Veins.

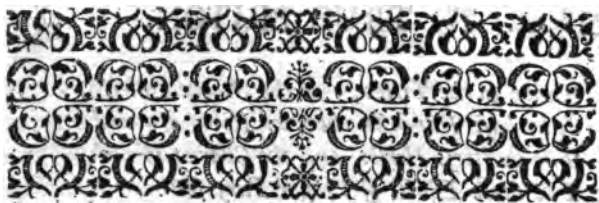
F E W, therefore, if any, of these *State-Leeches* have ever been known to resign but upon *Compulsion*. They have sometimes fled, indeed, to avoid Justice, and so left an Employment vacane; but I scarce remember any *Voluntary Resignation*.

- WERE I to assume the *Divine*, I might infer, perhaps, That the Hand of *Providence* is concern'd in continuing these *iniquitous Statesmen* in their Employments, till the *Resentments* of their *Prince*, or the *Justice* of their *injur'd Country* overtake and call them to Account. The Vengeance of the Gods would not suffer such a Wretch as *Sejane* to die in Peace, whose Plots and Subornations had spilt the Blood of the Innocent, and drawn the Curse of the blackest Murders upon himself and Family. It was necessary he should stand to Posterity an Example and Monument of the Wrath of offended Heaven: and that the *Courage* and *Indignities* shewn in his Punishment, should seem to parallel the *Rage* and *Monstrousness* of his Actions. To this End, Destruction, in the fiercest Manner, not only seized his *Person*; but the Fury of the *Populace* carried their Revenge, to the very *Statues* of him, and all the *Ensins* of his *Honour*. *JUVENAL* has given so fine a Description of this Part of their Revenge, that I cannot better conclude my Account of him, than by transcribing it as translated by *DRYDEN*.

Down

*Down go the Titles; and the Statue crown'd,  
Is by base Hands in the next River drown'd.  
The guiltless Horses, and the Chariot Wheel,  
The same Effects of Vulgar Fury feel:  
The Smith prepares his Hammer for the Stroke,  
While the Lung'd Bellows kissing Fire provoke;  
SEJANUS! almost First of Roman Names,  
The great SEJANUS! crackles in the Flames:  
Form'd in the Forge, the pliant Brass is laid  
On Anvils, and of Head and Limbs are made  
Pans, Cans, and Pippos, a whole Kitchen Trade.*



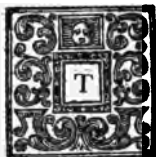


• T H E  
**TRUE BRITON.**

N U M B. XLV.

*Parcite paucorum crimen diffundere in omnes.* OVID.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4. 1723.



THE following Letter seems so pathetically, and yet with so much Temper, to bewail the unhappy *Dilemma* to which the fair Writer is reduced, on Account of the late Act of Parliament which obliges the Sex to take the Oaths, or to Register their Estates; that I cannot refuse it a Place in this Paper, though the Request contained in the last Paragraph thereof, is answered, as I conceive, by our Paper N<sup>o</sup> XLIII.

To the TRUE BRITON.

October the 22d. 1723.

S I R,

YOU being the only Champion that appears in Publick for the Female World, and that shews any Regard to the Weak Understanding and Want of Education in our Sex, which render us incapable of judging

judging of Things as, perhaps, we ought; 'tis to you we pour out our Complaints; and I, in behalf of all our afflicted Sex, beg you would represent to our Superiors, in the most moving Manner possible, the great Perplexity this late Swearing Act has put us all in. For my own Part, I am under the greatest Anxiety, having a small Fortune, and a numerous Family: If I take the Oaths required of me, I swear to Things I have no certain Knowledge of; and the Author of *The Whole Duty of Man* tells me (Page the 100) "If I swear to the Truth of that whereof I am only doubtful, though the Thing should happen to be true; yet it brings upon me the Guilt of Perjury; for I swear at a Venture, and the Thing might, for ought I know, be as well false as true; whereas I ought never to swear any thing the Truth of which I do not certainly know." Then how shall I do this great Wickedness, and sin against God? I, that am wholly ignorant of what I am to swear, and have not Sense to judge of the Rights and Power of Parliament, which may make Things, to Men of Sense, appear in a quite different Light? And if I neglect to take these Oaths, my little pretty Babes may want Subsistence; for 'tis with the utmost Care and Frugality that I at present maintain them, and cannot possibly do it if there be the least Diminution of my Fortune. What Course shall I then take? Shall I give them Bread at the Expence of my own Quiet and Conscience? or, Shall I see them want? 'Tis what no tender Mother can bear the Thought of.

AND this is not all our Grievance neither; for many of us have Husbands so zealous in this Affair, that they swear (for you know that is common with Men)

Men) if we do not take these Oaths, they will never see our Faces more. Here is a Division made between Man and Wife, *and them whom God hath join'd, let us Man put asunder.* 'Tis impossible to tell you all our Troubles: Let it suffice, that we have a Thousand Uneasinesses within, and continual Broils without; *Husbands against Wives, Fathers against Daughters, Sins* so that I almost believe (though don't care to swear) the World to be near its End.

WHAT have we done? or, What can we do? that we should have this Hardship laid upon our Sex; a Sex so helpless and defenceless, that, had we the Inclination (as far be it from us) 'tis not in our Power to offend. We cannot take up Arms ourselves; and we have no Influence over the Men 'tis plain, if we had, this Act had never pass'd: Or if we would give our whole Estates to assist a Rebellion, our Sex would hardly be trusted with the Secret. Does not this Act, Sir, rather give Encouragement to our Enemies Abroad, who will imagine our State in a Sinking Way, when we catch at Straws to support it; (for what can the Help of a Woman's Oath be more?) No, let our Superiors despise such mean Assistance, and repeal this Act; give Ease to our tender Consciences, and thereby engage the Hearts of all the *British* Females.

BUT if there is no Pity, no Compassion due to our Weakness, Ignorance, and want of Judgment, and we (though of the establish'd Church) must have less Favour than the *Quakers*, I beg Sir, you would let us know, Who by this Act are obliged to swear? Whether those only that are in Possession of their Estates?

Eſtates? or, Whether Wives muſt ſwear for their Joynitures, or for any Reverſionary Eſtates, tho' we may never live to enjoy them? for at our Tea-Tables we are much divided about it: And, dear *Briton*, aſſiſt us all you can in this Affair, and you ſhall for ever have the Prayers of

*Your Admirer,*

# CONSCIENCIA.

WE have received divers Letters relating to the Performance of our Correfpondent ORTHODOX, and find that he ſhares a Fate common to all Writers, To be approved by ſome, and cenſur'd by others. The Deſign of this Paper is to inſtruct, and not to exaſperate the Minds of Men; and we could not reſuſe to inſert a Correfpondence that tended to the Advantage of the Eſtabliſh'd Church, whoſe Proſperity we muſt look upon to be no ſmall Glory to the State, and intirely eſſential to the Welfare of our Excellent Conſtitution: And though we would not prostitute our Paper to Controverſies and Diſputes of Contending Parties; yet whenever thoſe Letters can be answer'd by Matters of Fact, of equal Authority; when the Hiſtorical Paſſages therein can be refuted; and the Aſſertions and Tranſcripts from their own Writings, proved to be falſe quoted, or injurious to Truth, I ſhall not be backward to inſert ſuch Defence; provided the Style of a Gentleman appears equally in the Work, and Rage and Rudeneſs are not made to ſupply Reaſon and Argument; as is the Caſe in Two Scurrilous Letters which have been tranſmitted to my Hands; and which, after I have asked Pardon of my Readers for the Shock their Ears will neceſſarily receive, I will inſert *Literatim*, as well to ſhew our

Cor

respondent what sort of Enemies he has irritated, as to confirm some of his own Observations upon them, and to introduce a Third Letter, that gives him much better Quarter, and makes a Request to him, which I shall recommend to his Consideration.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

**S**EING your Paper fitted only for the Post—re, wherein you seem to keep up a Distance amongst His Majesty's Subjects, thereby to weaken his Interest, that his Adversaries, of which yourself I take to be one, may gain your base Ends. As for Calumnies on the *Dissenters*, if you had read Mr. *Peirce's* Vindication, a Book unanswerable, and may remain till the General Decisive Day, it might have silenc'd you, as will all that will take the Pains to peruse it. As to Calumny and Detraction, it's so Natural to all Apostates, it but treading in the Steps of the Grand Original, that I admire Persons are not ashamed of so foul a Patron, Apostacy from Truth, *Libera Nos Domine.*

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

S I R,

**A**FTER you had so justly and prudently shewed forth Villany to be odious and abhorred, though made use of by People of never so great Power, whereby all honest Hearts could not but give you Thanks, then afterwards to be led Captive by the Devil and his Tools, to blaspheme and speak against the only Wise and Blessed Merciful Goodness of God to save Multitudes from the Artifice of the Devil and his Instruments



struments, is Most filthy and Vile, that you make all honest People hate your Paper; for all your Letters sign'd **ORTHODOX** stink of Hell; God give you Grace to repent, if it be His Blessed Will.

**I THINK** none could have wished you better than myself for your Papers, excepting your Letters of **ORTHODOX**.

*To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.*

**S I R,**

**Y**OUR Letters signed **ORTHODOX** give a General Satisfaction to all True Lovers of our Excellent Church; and the rather, because your Manner of treating the Subject is intirely New, and different from that of Controversial Writers: For you content yourself with tracing them down from their Original by undeniable Matters of Fact, and omitting all that might be justly taken Notice of (and which has been largely handled by others) with Regard to the Doctrinal and Disputable Points, wherein they vary from the Establish'd Church, and many of them from the Holy Scriptures, and even from Christianity itself; and thereby leave Mankind to judge of them by their *Fruits*, which is the Test establish'd by the Redeemer of the World to discover Hypocrites by, in those Verses, which all who have read your Papers, must apply to this Set of Men, *Matt. vii. 16. Beware of false Prophets, which come to you in Sheeps Cloathing, but inwardly they are Ravening Wolves. Ye shall know them by their FRUITS: Do Men gather Grapes of Thorns, or Figs of Thistles? &c.* But notwithstanding

withstanding the Pleasure given me by their Perusal, I cannot chuse to wonder, that you should leave the Subject at the *Revolution*; when so large a Field is left from their *Practices* ever since, as well as their *Preachments*, to trace them down to the present Time: And when their uncharitable *Contentts* among one another so very lately, about the *Divinity* of our Blessed Lord, which has discover'd such *Errors* among them, are so fresh in Memory. What I would humbly request is, That you will be pleased to transmit to Posterity the remaining Part of their History, which will manifest to the World, that many of *these* pretended *Reformation-mongers*, have proved *themselves* as bad Christians, as their *Ancestors* were Subjects.

I am, S. I R,

Your Admirer, &c.

PHILO. ORTHOD.

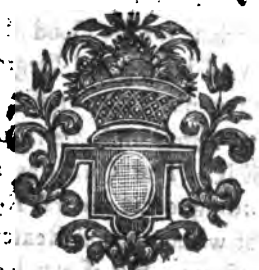
WE have received a Second Letter from our fair Correspondent PHILOCLEA, and at her Request shall not publish her former; although our Design, had we done it; would only have been to convince her how kindly we take her friendly Reproof and Admonitions, and at the same Time demonstrate the Chearfulness wherewith we would acknowledge an Error.

THE Letter sign'd G. H. and dated from York, October 18. is come to Hand, and shall meet with proper Regard.

AS

AS it is not our Design willfully to offend, and draw down the Resentment of our Superiors, we must desire the Gentlemen who stile himself **ARRUNTUS**, to excuse our not inserting his Letter.

**AGATHOCLES** is desired to give a Translation of his *Enigma* Quotation in Character, lest if we should insert it, the *Decyphering Sages* may **GUESS** at it to its Disadvantage.



THE



# THE TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. XLVI.

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*In malos Asperimus  
Parata to'lo Cornua.*

HOR.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8. 1723.

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IN any several Discourses of what may be done for the Good of the Publick, by all Ranks and Degrees of Men, I have not taken sufficient Notice of the *Power* and *Merits* of a Good and Honest WRITER. The Qualities and Faculties of *Authors*, according to the general Run at *present*, may, perhaps, not without good Reason, be deemed trivial and insignificant; But if we look upon them at Times when *Eloquence* flourished, we shall discover them making a very different Figure in the Eyes of Men: And let the *greatest Personages*, that are called the Men of *busy* and *active Life*, frame of them what Imaginations they please, they will for ever find, that Men of *Polite Application*, who are fam'd for *Learning*, *Wis* and *Eloquence*, will fill up some  
Int-

Important Scene in every Publick Action that is represented on the Theatre of the World.

I KNOW it is thought by many, that *Publick Praises* or *Dispraises*, though never so rightly distributed, for *Good* or *Evil Actions*, have *less Power* than they really have, though it is certain they have not so much *Efficacy* as they should.

THAT much-talk'd of Panegyrist and Satirist *ARETIN*, says indeed, *That he thought the Great Men in his Time Fools, that, since they were not afraid of incurring the Wrath of Heaven, they should be apprehensive of his Strokes of Satire.* But the Learned Mr. *BAYLE* very justly and judiciously corrects him upon this Head. *This Reasoning*, says that discerning Scholar, *will not hold; for the Fear of Men makes us abstain from a Thousand Things, which we should scarce abstain from; if we had no other Dread upon us, but that of the Divine Vengeance.*

FROM hence it is plainly deducible, That a *Popular Author*, who has got a great Power of giving Praise or Dispraise, ought to be very cautious where he gives it: That he has an Ability of doing a great deal of Good, or a World of Mischief: He ought to act upon the Principles of Justice and Courage; for he undertakes a Business of great Importance, that deserves a more serious Consideration than we are apt to bestow upon it.

THE Character of a Publick Writer, therefore, must of necessity be, in its own Nature, very Infamous, or very Glorious.

TO defend Truth, to detect Falshood, to give Praise-worthy Men their due Characters, and so to warm and incite them to further Virtues; to oppose those that are powerful in Vice, and to chastise any Publick Corruptions whenever they appear, are illustrious Marks of great Fortitude and Justice.

TO palliate Truth, to advance Falshood, to offer the Incense of flattering Praise to any Man, merely because he is Great in Post, though Little, Mean, and Abject in Soul; to calumniate depress'd Merit, and propagate Scandals concerning either the Living; or the Dead, that are or were Men of uncorrupted Integrity: These are the Highest Tokens of Partiality, Biasness, and Falseness of Heart.

IT is so impolitical a Thing for a Writer to give Praises where they are not truly merited; that, let him be never so much an Orator, he robs himself of the Power of his Eloquence, and no Man, that was really Good and Great, would ever afterwards thank him for his good Word. On the other Hand, spreading about a Scandal, or a Calumny, upon a worthy Person, is still worse for the Author of it, than the Error of Flattery: For after a Man hath once branded himself for a Retailer of Falshoods, he must fall under the Inconvenience of not being believed, even when he speaks Truth.

AND yet there is such a Prevalence, even in false Satire itself, that it will give some Pain to an Honest Mind, though it is known to come from an Unworthy Hand, that deserves all the Obloquy which it deals out it.

ARCHI.

*ARCHILOCHUS* a Greek Poet, was so famous, or rather infamous in this Way, that he was called *The Torrent of Slander*. He wrote so virulent a Lampoon upon one *Lycambus*, who had promised that Poet his Daughter in Marriage, and afterwards broke his Word, that he hang'd himself. This Writer was of a Lewd and a Licentious Life; He was like Envy, who is said, when she is incapable of punishing others, to take a Pleasure in tormenting herself: So he, when he had no body else to fall upon, and satisfy his Spirit of finding Fault, wrote a Satire against his own Vices; and it was as great a Pity that when he did it, it should not have had the same Effect upon him afterwards, that it had before upon *Lycambus*; as it was a Pity that whatever such a Mischance could utter, should affect with any Pain the Hearts of his Honest Contemporaries, whom he abused.

*ARETIN* was as Wicked and as Lewd a Man, as the former; and yet he boasts, That he laid all the Great Men of his Age, and even Sovereign Princes themselves, under Contribution, to bribe him to lay a Restraint upon this Unlucky Talent. And yet this *Aretin* too, was as lavish of his Praises. In his famous Epistles which he writes to Generals of Armies, Cardinals, Princes, and Kings, his Applauses are all *Hypertoles*, and his Flatteries are strain'd and extravagant.

FOR my Part, I must own my Thoughts are, That any Man *truly Great*, who had lived at either of those Times when *Archilochus* or *Aretin* flourished in all the Power of their keen Capacities, would

not have lain under any dismal Apprehensions of being calumniated by Men of such criminal Lives. It is a certain Truth, That there is scarce any thing so difficult for a Generous Mind to bear, as calumnious Reproaches and Invectives; but when a Man is perfectly Conscious to himself, that he has never incurr'd the Guilt upon the Supposition of which they are form'd, his Soul must grow calm and easy upon that wholesome Reflection; nay, he will even *pity* the Men, and *condemn* the Malice. I am therefore wonderfully pleased with a Letter that was written to *Aretin* by the Marquis *del Guasto*, in which, with a great deal of Humour, he seems to triumph handsomely over the Keenness of that Satirist.

THE Marquis exhorts him to *continue* his Way of Writing; and desires, that *himself* might not be exempt; but that his Faults might be laid before him by *Aretin*, and so censured, that he might be obliged to amend; and that others who had the same Defects pointed out, might, blushing, recover their false Steps, and fly over from the Side of Vice to that of Virtue.

IF the Efficacy of Praise and Dispraise be so great, when the Power of them is lodged in *wicked Hands*, what Prevalence will Eloquence have when it is in the Possession of a Person of *known Integrity* and *Virtue*?

THE *Good* and *Great* must be glad to place the Principal of their Fame in such reputable Hands, from whence they must be sure to receive the Return of it with proper Interest. The *Wicked Great*, however



N<sup>o</sup> 46. *The TRUE BRITON.* 403

soever Haughty or Powerful they may be, must tremble, when such a Man draws his Pen in behalf of the Publick, lest he should cast but a single Eye towards the criminal Side of their Characters; For they know he will have Courage enough to attack them, and so turn their Height to their Disadvantage; and by how much the more Conspicuous they are, he will render them the more conspicuously Infamous.

AND yet it is certain, that oftentimes Men receive more Damage by pointing Satires at Vices than at Virtues; because Virtuous Men can forgive even *Calumny*, but Wicked Ones will scarce ever pardon *Truth*: So true is that Saying of *Mr. Dryden*;

*Forgiveness to the Injur'd does belong;*

*But they ne'er pardon, who have done the Wrong.*

But yet this ought rather to excite the Courage, than depress the Hearts of those, who undertake to be the Publick Opposers and Censurers of Vice; as will appear by the following Instances of Three Great Men, that were ruin'd by using those Arts well; though *Archilochus* and *Aretin* flourished by the Abuse of them.

THE first Example that I shall name is *SOCRATES*, There was scarce a vicious Man in *Athens* of any Figure and Remark, whom he had not labour'd to bring over from the Interests of Impiety, and to reconcile to the Cause of Virtue; and he made as successful a Progress as all the prevailing Powers of an eloquent Orator, join'd with the convincing Arguments and Demonstrations of a solid and profound Philosopher (not to say a Divine) could possibly effect,

*Melitus* and *Aristoxenus*, two smooth-tongu'd Informers, two sly Declaimers in the Cause of Vice, accused this great Reformer, of Corrupting the *Grecian* Youth; and carry'd their Point so far, that *Cunning*, which often deceives the Majority of Men, who are weak of Understanding, got the better of *True Wisdom*, which is discernable only to the Few, and work'd the Downfal; and the Death of *Socrates*, *Euripides*, to reproach the *Athenians* with this Murder, composed his *Palamides*; in which, under the Name of that Hero, who likewise fell oppress'd with Calumnious Falshoods, he deplores the Misfortune of his Friend; And it happen'd that when an Actor pronounced this Verse,

*From the most Part of all the Greeks you snatch the  
Life away.*

All the Audience, suspecting the Poet's Meaning, shed Tears at the Remembrance of *Socrates*; insomuch, that it was at that Time forbid to speak more of him in Publick. However, while his Accusers led an infamous Life, and made as infamous an End, Statues and Medals, and even a Temple called ΣΟΚΡΑΤΕΙΟΝ, was consecrated to the Memory of *Socrates*; whom, methinks, one may justly call a kind of *Martyr for the Truth*.

THE next I shall name was *PHOCION*. He was a Man that had serv'd his Country with a long Series of Success in the different Qualities of a *Soldier*, a *Statesman* and an *Orator*. He was always a strenuous and an effectual Opposer of Falshood, insomuch that *Demosthenes*, who lies under the Ill Fame of receiving frequent Bribes, and appearing on

the wrong Side for the Sake of Lucre, used to call *Phocion*, *The Ass that cut down his Arguments*; And yet, Powerful as he was in Oratory, and Superior even as he owns himself, to the renown'd *Demosthenes*, yet He, this *Phocion*! fell a Victim for the Truth. The pernicious Eloquence of one *Demades*, who was not to be called an *Orator*, but a *Declaimer*, and *Sower of Sedition*; who was not a *Philosopher*, but a *base* and a *vile Sophister*; who was not a *wise Statesman*, but a *cunning, false and crafty Politician*, brought this glorious Patriot to a *seeming Legal End*, and the blind People, whom he had preserved, voted or rather sacrificed for his Death.

THE Third is C I C E R O, that Orator, whom Mr. Cowley mentioning, says,

*His blest Tongue and Wit  
Preserves Rome's Greatness yet.*

And this is really his true Character; For while he was even in the highest Posts of Authority, it was by the Force of his Eloquence, that he brought about all the great Actions he performed. It was that which made him so hated, and at the same Time so dreaded, by the wicked *Clodius*; It was by that he defended a poor helpless Province, against a powerful and wicked Viceroy *Verris*, who made use of his Greatness to starve, ruin and oppress what that Greatness was intrusted to him to nourish, prosper, and protect: It was by this Gift of his Eloquence, that he turned into Clemency the Wrath of *Caesar*; He did more than *Pompey*, and preserved against those who conquer'd, that Army which was vanquish'd and beaten. He saved Rome, the greatest Empire of the World,

that it had done, as it ought, a Good to its Own self, when it constituted such an Orator as he was, the Greatest Man in it, and made him its *Consul*. It proved no less than the Preservation of that Commonwealth, which had otherwise infallibly met with utter and unavoidable Ruin and Destruction from *Cataline*, and his factious Adherents. He saved *Rome* from the arbitrary Power of *Anthony*, (whose debauch'd Principles he has set forth to the World's open View, in the sharpest Invectives that were ever penn'd) by raising up the good *Octavius* to be his Equal. But yet, for all this, He met with his own Death, his own Overthrow at last, from which the Endeavours of his whole Life were form'd to defend all the Good Men of his Country, and his Country itself. It was *Anthony* gave the Orders, and *Herennius*, an Officer with a Band of Soldiers, beset and murder'd him.

BUT still these Instances ought to be so far from deterring Good Men from taking the Part of Truth, that, on the contrary, whensoever the Tide of powerful Falshood runs high against them, they ought to endeavour to stem it with true Courage: And that they may make the honest Fortitude of *Modern Britons* rival that of the *Ancient Greeks* and *Romans*, they ought to place before their Eyes the Great Persons whom I have named, as Glorious Examples and Patterns of True Resolution.

FOR who is there, that had not rather be the accused SOCRATES, than be like his Infamous Accusers *Meletus* and *Aristarchus*? Who had not rather be unjustly sentenced to Death like *PHOCION*, than

than be the Pleader for so unjust a Sentence with Demades? Who had not rather be the murder'd CICCERO, than either the Orderer of his Murther *Anthony*, or his Murderer *Herennius*?

NOT to allow these Truths, is to say in Effect, what no Man is harden'd enough to aver publicly, That the Life of a False Informer, a Lying Pleader, and a Wilful Murderer, is preferable to the Death of a Just, Upright and Honest Man.





THE  
**TRUE BRITON.**

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N U M B. XLVII.

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*Homines ad Deos nulla re propius accedunt, quam  
salutem hominibus dando.* CIC.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER II. 1723.

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*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



INCE we are obliged to take the Oaths, I cannot help thinking, that our Sex makes a much more considerable Figure in this Kingdom, than it ever did before.

I MUST farther own it frankly, to be gravely and sincerely my Opinion, That, as we are become, by such solemn Engagements, significant Members of the Body Politick, we have a kind of Right and Claim to communicate our Thoughts upon Matters relating to the Publick Welfare with as much Freedom as any *Male-Briton* whatsoever.

I DO

I DO not know what Single Men may think, but all Married Men must know, that, where our Interests are equally concerned, we Women ever thought ourselves equally privileged to declare our Sentiments, especially if we apprehended any great Grievances from our Silence.

The whole Sex must be obliged to own your Extraordinary Complaisance in this Point, since you freely indulge us with the Favour of being your Correspondents, and speaking our Minds publicly upon those Affairs which publicly concern us.

YET, though we are made happy in this Liberty, we express ourselves wholly in Complaints, without taking the more proper Method of explaining what we could reasonably propose or desire, to put an End to those Complaints. The whole Sex seems to be overwhelm'd, as it were, with a Deluge of Sorrow and Confusion; and though there are so many Thousands of them, that are as political as the Men in their own private Affairs, there has not been one, that has given herself Time to think of a proper Expedient to lay before the Great Men for their Relief in this general Perturbation and Hurry; so true is that Saying, *That what is every Body's Business, is seldom made the Business of any one Body whatever.*

THE Case of the afflicted Lady CONSCIENCE, which you lately published, was, indeed, but very lately my own unhappy Case. I am a Widow, whom Fortune has bless'd with pretty comfortable Possessions; but I have several Young Children,

dren, and, I must own, I was a long Time perplex'd with the same Doubts and Difficulties of Conforming to the Oaths, with which that unfortunate Lady (I heartily pity her!) is still making a hard Struggle.

THE Fear and Dread that a Conscience truly Scrupulous has of entering into such solemn Engagements as Oaths upon any Subject of which the Certainty is above the Reach of its Enquiries, is not to be express'd by the Pen of the most wise and judicious Man alive, however; some Simple and Vain Men are pleas'd to ridicule it; and, therefore, how hard is it to be endured by the Heart of a poor weak and ignorant Woman? Again, the Fear and Affection which a tender Mother bears to the Offspring of her own Bowels, in their younger Years especially, are such delicate and exquisite Touches of Nature, as it is not within the Power of Man even to conceive. — How much greater are the Emotions and the Pangs of the Soul upon these Occasions, than the Body feels in bringing them forth with hardest Labour? Imagine then, if it be possible you should imagine, what must be the Struggle between the *Conscience* of a Mother at this Time, which on the one Hand, dreads complying with the Oaths for fear of endangering her Soul; and her Worldly Terror on the other Hand, of being deemed guilty for Non-compliance to take them; the Shocking Consequence of which represents to her, Herself and her poor Infants, through the Means of *Her* who should by Nature nourish and protect them, exposed to the Peril of a Perishing Condition — Dear BRITON, You may guess at this Extremity of Anguish — It is *barely* possible that you *may faintly* guess at it! — But I have *felt* it; and therefore



fore *Nature* calls upon me to plead for those, who are in your CONSCIENTIA's Case, and feel it *still*.

IT is true, as for myself, I overcame these Difficulties, and being convinced by the Reasons that follow, took the Oaths, and am now intirely at Ease with regard to my own Person; and yet not *so intirely* at Ease neither, but that I every now and then feel great Pain, when a whole Circle of beautiful Ladies, with whose Acquaintance and frequent Visits I am honour'd, and whom I know to be prudent and virtuous, and well-affected to the Government, refuse, after I have laid before them all the most cogent Reasons I can, and that induced me to take them.

ONE Day when the fair Assembly met together, I ventured to accuse PRUDENTIA of not acting according to the Discretion she was reputed to have, for not taking the Oaths as I advised her. She answered me with much Modesty, That she did not set up for the Reputation of Wisdom, and that in the Sense we were speaking, she would rather be *Spiritually Innocent*, than *Worldly Wise*; That she was tender of doing Wrong, and scrupulous of acting what she did not understand, and binding herself under the most solemn Oaths to declare any Thing a *Certainty*, tho' she knew it to be the *greatest Probability* in the World. I then replied, that she was not certain of her own Conscience; but that it was a Thing certain, that she must obey the Government; and therefore, according to an Archbishop's Words, *She ought to reject that doubtful Conscience, and stick to the latter, which was undoubted*. To this she reply'd, That her own Conscience must be her Judge, and either accuse  
OF

or acquit her; and consequently, that it must be her only Guide. I then told her, That as several Learned Men had agreed on the like Occasion, she might very well suspect her own Conscience to be erroneous, because she alone, at that Rate, would seem to controll all the Wisdom of the Greatest and Learnedest Men of the whole Realm, who had made and taken it. PRUDENTIA reply'd, That all Divines agreed to what CONSCIENCIA quotes out of the Author of the *Whole Duty of Man*, viz. *That if I swear to the Truth of that whereof I am only doubtful, though the Thing should happen to be true, yet it brings upon me the Guilt of Perjury, &c.* And some Divines, said she, have not even agreed to take the Oaths; So that I, concluded she, have the Majority of Learned Men for me, and not against my Opinion.

TO this I must own, I could not make an immediate Answer: Upon which SIMPLICIA and INNOCENTIA, Two Beautiful and Virtuous Young Ladies, added immediately, That they were too Young to know as a Certainty what they apprehended they were to swear; and therefore, would not comply: But that they would willingly swear at the same Time, *That their not taking the Oaths, was not out of any Enmity to the Government; for which they declared, and I believe they had, an Affection: But that it was purely because they had not a full and perfect Certainty of what they were to swear by those Oaths; and therefore were afraid of Endangering their Souls.* And then very wisely censuring those, who, in an impious Sense, say, They would sooner trust God with their Souls, than Men with their Estates, they averr'd, with Tears in their Eyes,

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Eyes, That they were afraid they must lose their Expectations in this World.

I MUST own to you, Dear BRITON, that notwithstanding I am in the main convinced that I have done right in what I have done, and can answer it to my own Conscience with Safety, (or else I would not have done it to preserve my own, or even to obtain the greatest Fortunes and Honours in the World) yet such Discourses falling from the Lips of these certainly innocent, though mistaken People, struck me strangely at Times, and ruffled and discomposed that Calm of Soul which I have always studied to preserve from all such troublesome Invasions. And indeed, when I have argued down my own Mind into Peace again, by the Means of further Reflection, I cannot still help feeling a very sensible Compassion for such tender Consciences as cannot get over these Doubts. It is certain, they deserve Respect from all honest Hearts, since, if it is their Error to shrink from the Oaths which with Safety they might embrace, yet as they think not so, it is, methinks, not only a pardonable, but a beautiful Error in the *Virtuous Blind*, that they are so tenderly afraid of wounding their Consciences with the least Remorse.

OUT of Persons, who have such honestly-formed and such piously regulated Minds, and who scruple to do the least Thing which may offend that *Inward Judge* of both our Honour and Virtue called *Conscience*; Out of them, I say, are to be chosen the *best Friends*, The most sincere *Companions*, The kindest *Mistresses* of *Families*, The most faithful *Servants*, The tenderest *Mothers*, The most obedient *Daughters*,  
The

*The best-natur'd Sisters, and The most endearing Wives: In fine, The most ornamental and beneficial Members of every Class of Society upon Earth. Must it not then be painful to a generous Mind to consider; that such People particularly, above all the rest of the World, should be made liable to any Distress upon Account of that very Tenderness of Conscience; however mistaken in one Thing, that makes them so eminently valuable in all the other Stations, and in every other Duty of Life.*

THIS, if Fethale Politicks might avail, has put me upon sacking my Thoughts to find, Whether I could form an acceptable Scheme for their Relief; and I think I have at last found out one very practicable Method, by which the Women may be obliged to take an Oath, which would at one and the same Time, be equally consistent with the Security of the Government, as if they took all the Oaths now prescribed, and yet not at all obnoxious to the Tenderness of their own Consciences.

WHAT I would humbly propose, is, That those who are too scrupulous to take the Oaths in the Form they are now administered, may swear, That they do not refuse them out of Obstinacy; That they do not refuse them because they either are, or will be involved in the Guilt of bearing any *Civil Enmity* against the Government; but purely for the Sake of *Conscience*, as being loth to swear what they do not *Positively* and *Absolutely* know for a *Certainty*.

THIS would as effectually bind them to be good Subjects, as all the Oaths now offer'd to them; and all that take this Oath may be depended upon to swear Truth; or, if not, how could they be more depended upon

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upon taking any where, though even a Thousand  
in Number for the same purpose.

HOW many Uneasy Families would this quiet?  
How many disturbed Consciences would it calm? To  
how many restless and ignorant Ladies would this  
Exercure of our Man in Authority and Power give  
Content?

THE Lords and Commons of England are such  
Fine Gentlemen, that they have always passed for the  
Ladies of this Kingdom; Laws which are more fa-  
vourable to the Sex, than are to be found establish'd by  
any other Assembly of Legislators under the Heavens.

THE Reverend Bench of Bishops would infalli-  
bly come into any reasonable Method, as this certainly  
is, of giving Consciences truly scrupulous all possible  
Satisfaction: So that, methinks, this Project needs  
nothing but being known, to be put in Execution to  
the Content of every TRUE BRITON; and  
therefore I chuse to communicate it by the Means of  
your Paper; In which if you give it a Place you will  
oblige,

*Your Admirer,*

## MISERICORDIA

WE have received the Letter sign'd *PHILO-  
EPISCOPUS*, and cannot sufficiently commend  
the Wit and Humour contained in it. But as we take  
it to be too severe a Reflection on a Right Reverend  
Bench, and many of the dignity'd Clergy, we must  
desire to be excus'd the inserting of it in the TRUE  
BRITON.

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Things

AND, indeed, we cannot but differ in Opinion with the ingenious Author, who accounts many Things censurable, which, we think, ought to be esteem'd the peculiar Happiness of the *present Times*, and a Glory to the *Present Set* of Prelates: That *Blind Submission* which he says they pay to the *Dispensers of Preferments and Translations*, what is it but the Laudable Consequences of *Implicit Obedience* to Governors, which has always been held as an essential Doctrine of the Church?

THOSE *Rights* which he says they are so *zealous* in *Defending*, does it not demonstrate, The *right Primitive Spirit* of those Reverend Worthies, who for *Peace* as well as for *Conscience-Sake*, stand not upon those *High Pretensions* which were wont to be contested for with so much *Vehemence* by the *turbulent Prelates* of former Ages, to the *indangering the Peace of the Church*?

IF they appear to him *too complaisant* to the *Disfenters*, it should be remember'd, that they are commended *To let their Moderation be known unto all Men*; and we have the Pleasure of seeing this *Complaisance* produce *proper Effects*; for do not the *Disfenters* in general, who were wont to *calumniate* that *Sacred Dignity*, now express so much Value for the *Persons of our Bishops*, that, if possible, they exceed the *Genuine Sons of the Church* on that Head?

AS to his Observation of the *small Number* of those Reverend Fathers, who appeared against the *Quakers Bill*; May it not be, That they would *overcome Evil with Good*, and convince that *obstinate People*, that the *Reproaches* they have heretofore fasten'd on the

*Sacred*

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*Sacred Order as Priests of Baal, and as Hirelings, are perfectly Groundless?*

UPON the Whole, I think I may assert, *That these truly Apostolical Men, have shewn, in every Instance that has been required of them, that they have a Title to boast with Holy Paul, That unto the Jews, they became Jews; that they might gain the Jews: That to them that were under the Law, and to them that were without Law, they became conformable, that they might save both: That to the Weak, they became as Weak, that they might gain the Weak: And finally, That they are made All Things to All Men, that they may, by All Means, save some; 1 Cor. ix. 20, 21, 22.*

MOTIVATION



Re 4

THE



# TRUE BRITON.

No. 1. M. B. and XLVII.

*Sola iustitia iustitia est Patrem.* CICERO.

F. R. I. D. A. K. A. O. N. Q. R. E. M. B. R. E. T. S. A. 1723.

To the TRUE BRITON:

SIR,



HERE is not any Great Officer in the Service of the Publick, that requires so many good and excellent Qualities to make him equal to the high Station he fills, as a JUDGE, who ought to be a Man of innate Goodness and Probity, as well as of great Learning and Experience; since the Lives, the Liberties and Properties of his Fellow-Subjects, are, in a great measure, at his Mercy and Disposal.

IT is not the *Greatest Lawyer* that always makes the *Best Judge*: If Nature hath not been liberal to him, in vain doth he seek the Helps of Art and Industry. *Jethro*, in his Counsel to *Moses* for appointing Judges over the Children of *Israel*, saith, *They must be Men of Courage, and Men of Truth,*  
*fearing*



*frank God, and living Contentment.* The Direction is excellent, and justly worthy the Wise Counsellor that gave it. It is a Lesson for all succeeding Ages to learn and follow; for a Man who is so endow'd, can be hardly capable to discharge the Great Duty of that Office with Impartiality.

**IN CORRUPTIONS** is a Man that presides on the Bench; is a very dangerous, illegitimate, and pernicious in its Consequences to the Publick; the Affair of which he will neglect to gratify his private *Interest*. The *SELF* will tie eyes, prudensant, hand his Hand always open to the *Oppressor*, in every Instance of Justice; the Rich and Great having nothing so near from the Decisions of a *Corrupt* Judge, as they will when they come with Rich as are yet Great and Rich, whilst the Poor perish in their *own Poverty*. Instances of this may be seen in the Life of our Great King *Edward III.* who caused divers *Small* Corrupt Judges to be severely punished; and thereby justly satisfy'd those Laws which they had unjustly and shamefully abused.

**AMBITION** is another Passion, which ought not to have a Place in the Bosom of a Judge. That restless Appetite is never so incompatible with the Good of Mankind, as in a Person of that Character. There is Elsewhere with all other Considerations; but what are conducive to raise his own particular *Interest*. The Affairs of *other* Men, especially *those* of a *private* Subject, have ever got with *horrid* Regard from Men of this unhappy Disposition. The *Edicts* of *Henry VIII.* and *Charles II.* abound with innumerable Proofs of such *Excess* on the Bench. The

*Puisne* Judge, to shew himself qualified for the Place of a *Chief*, took every Opportunity to demonstrate his implicit Attachment to, and Compliance with, the Exorbitances of the Court; whilst the *Chief*, maligning all those in his Way, generically cast his insatiate Eyes upon Preferments yet higher.

INDEED, Chief-Justice *Pemberton's* Removal from the *King's Bench* to the *Common Pleas*, is a first Exception to this general Rule of Misconduct in those Days of Partiality. But this was owing to his *Honesty*; for Nature had made him incapable of going through the cruel Dexterity of the designing Courtiers of those Times. He could not bear to be dictated to by Men in Power, nor would he come pre-determined to the Bench; Having always a greater Propension to *serve* than to *defend*.

A VIOLENT *Party-Man* cannot be an upright Judge; for he will incline to favour those of his own Side, especially in a *Party-Cause*, where too frequently not the *Merits*, but the *Men*, are tried. And tho' Justice may glare so strong in his Face, that he cannot veil it with Art, and wrest it to serve a Turn; yet will he find Means to protract the Cause, and dwell upon every Argument that comes from the Side he espouses. How ready is he to hear and assist every Thing from thence? And under what Frowns and Discouragements are all those that argue against it? New Trials will be granted for no other Reason than to perplex; the *Old* *hallowed* Arguments, interspersed or larded with some *rising* *New* Matter, will be esteemed as *intirely* *New* on one Side; and yet on the other Side, even Arguments really *New*, will be reprimanded

primended as *Impertinencies* and *Repetitions*: Then *Doubts* will arise, his *Brethren* must be consulted, and a *farther Day* is given for the Hearing; Which, unless the Party falls to Ruin in the *Interim* under the vast Expence, perhaps will never come. These are the Misfortunes that have formerly flowed from the Violence of *Party Judges*; and happy it is, that in these Days we are Strangers to them!

A JUDGE ought to be intirely disengaged from all those little Passions that affect other People; and particularly from *Anger*, or *Peevishness*, than which nothing can be more odious and unseemly in his high Character: For it is always visible, and carries with it the same pernicious Tendency, if exercis'd *publickly*, as Bribes do when given *privately*: For does it not *equally* contribute to obstruct Justice, and obscure Truth? It is the same to me whether I lose my Cause, through the one or the other; nor is the Judge less excusable or guiltless. *Anger* detracts very much from the Reverence which is due both to the *Person* of a Judge, and to the *Laws* which he pronounces. It makes him liable to very great Impositions from every Quarter. *The Gentlemen at the Bar* will not fail to make Use of it to serve the Cause of their Clients, and to divert him from the Search of Truth: which often brings him under the great Unhappiness of mistaking the *Shadow* for the *Substance*; and happy is *He*, whensoever this happens to be the Case, whose Counsel best knows to strike the *String of Discord*, for that is the *shortest Way* to Success.

AS Falsehood often usurps the Face of *Truth*, and *Truth* lies as frequently conceal'd behind the Masque

of Falseness, a Judge ought to be a great Master of Patience and Industry to find out the Distinctions for they are the safe Touchstones of Justice, and the unerring Clues that direct to Truth. A Judge therefore, that considers the Great Duty of his Office, and that he is set up above the People for their Good and Benefit, will not deny himself the Use and Practice of these Virtues; which as the Duty of his Office renders necessary, so Custom, in a small Time, will render easy to him. *Sola iudicis sustinet Patientia*, says the Greatest Orator, and the Best Judge that ever graced the Roman State.

THE Great Commissioner Whitlock in his Speech to Mr. Serjeant Wilks on his Being sworn Chief Baron of the Exchequer, saith, That Patience is necessary for the finding out of Truth; when the Judgment is clouded with Passion, the Truth will not be clearly discerned. The Digest directs a Judge not to give any Opprobrious Verba to any in Judgment; No Importunities, Importunities, Clamours, nor Reproaches, must needs be. He is to learn from the Unfavourableness and Intemperances of others Passions, the better how to govern his own. He must also be Patient in allowing sufficient Time, both for that which is not Material, as for that which is; the Distinction is not easy by the Discretion and Ingenuity of Counsel. And a little farther saith, That Judge doth seldom determine justly, that doth not hear patiently. And that Impartiality is likewise necessary to have the Truth prevail.

THE Man who pays Regard to these Excellent Instructions, can never Err on the Bench. And it had been a great Happiness in the Days of my Lord  
Keeper

Keeper North, in his Instructions to Mr. Serjeant Saunders, when he was appointed Chief of the King's Bench, had been as little mistaken: He there says *That a Judge must take Greatness on him; He must consider he represents the King's Person in his Seat of Justice; He must therefore be very careful to preserve the Dignity that belongs to it.* These Directions in themselves are certainly just, and though Mr. Serjeant took them as they were really intended, yet they have been misunderstood, or wrested, by some who would have done better to have followed them; and who, in Asping a false Greatness and Dignity, have shown themselves Triumphant in Pride and Obstinacy. I do not suppose, that my Readers will be at a Loss for a late Instance of what I assert.—Chief Justice Jeffries is within the Memory of every Body.

*COURAGE* is very necessary for a Judge, as well to secure him against all Importunities and Importations, as to bear him through all unjust Repetitions and Genuerations. The Eloquence or Friends of Great Men in Power may otherwise influence him in their Measures: For he that fears Men, can never execute Justice impartially. But Care ought to be taken to distinguish between *Contrary* and *Passion*: It is not to triumph over the Weakness of Men, whom he full well knows to be entirely subject to any arbitrary Determination that his Humour shall prompt him to pronounce against them, but to keep firm and immovable in the Cause of Truth, that shows the *Courage* of a Judge.

I BELIEVE, my Lord-Keeper North had an Eye to the *Necessity of Courage* on the Bench, as well in

mity; for the Law provided a Remedy for them; as appears in the Case of Sir Richard Weston and Sir Francis Winnington, who, being Contemporaries at the Bar, and excellent in their Profession, were always retained as Opposites; but Sir Richard having the Misfortune to be very Passionate, the other generally took care to improve it to the Advantage of the Side he was Counsel with; and indeed it was no difficult Matter for him to get Sir Richard beyond the Bounds of all Law and Reason, which he us'd him often in indecent Expressions.

ONCE on a Time particularly, when Sir Francis would have oppos'd his own Opinion to a Point of Law, that Sir Richard had been maintaining, on purpose to irritate him, he threw up his Breviate into the Air, and cry'd out, *A Kiss, & Kiss, by G—d, if what I have urged is not Law*; which causing a loud Laugh in Court, rais'd an irreconcilable Enmity in Sir Richard against his Antagonist.

WESTON being afterwards made one of the Barons of the Exchequer, was resolv'd to be even with him for it. And as Sir Francis was one Day moving before him, he interrupted him, and said, *That he deny'd his Motion; and would not hear him*. Hereupon Sir Francis finding himself affronted in the Face of the Court, and in the Presence of several of his Clients, address'd himself to the Chief Baron, saying, *That he came there in the Service of his Client, who had retain'd him, and had a Right to be heard; that he had always behav'd himself with Decency to the Bench, and in Return had the Honour of its Favour and Esteem; That he was not conscious of any Offence*

Justice he had given the Baron in the Capacity he assumed on the Bench; And, since the Affairs he had managed was highly important to him with regard to his Reputation, and tended to lessen him greatly among his Acquaintance, he hoped, that the Court would excuse him, and recommended the Baron to give him an Appearance, and then left the Bar.

BUT the Chief Baron, foreseeing the ill Consequences that might ensue from *Wolton's* Rashness and Indiscretion, interpos'd, and made up the Matter, upon Mr. Baron *Wolton's* asking Sir Francis *Winnington's* Pardon: Who appeared, soon after, again in Court, and as often as the one spoke for the future, the other was ready to hear.

I am, SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

R. T.



THE



THE  
**TRUE BRITON.**

NUMB. XLIX.

*Nobilitas sola est atque unica Virtus. JUV.*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18. 1723.



HAVE occasionally heard it whisper'd among some of my Readers, when I have presented them with Quotations out of Excellent Authors, that tended to promote the Knowledge of Things which it has been the Aim of this Paper to inculcate as much as possible, for the Good of the Publick, That they should have been far better pleas'd with a reduction upon the same Subject that had been intirely my own.

THIS is, indeed, a very kind Censure ; but still I should not deserve the Approbation I have met with, if I were moved by it so far as to be contented with endeavouring myself to satisfy them in some Cases in a Less Degree, when I know I could furnish them with a More Copious and Pleasing Entertainment, from a Hand more Fruitful in procuring that kind of  
Feast



Feast of the Mind, which I shall have a Desire to see before them, and think the most proper for that particular Day.

THE Author of the following Paragraphs is Mr. *Davenant*; an Author who has with Justice been applauded, for that he constantly endeavoured to make his Studies tend to the Service of the Publick, and his Aim even was to incite in young Gentlemen, a Desire of being acquainted with the Business of the Nation, and this Knowledge, as he very well says, lying under abundance of Rubbish, his Scope has been to remove this Rubbish, and to dress up crabbed Matters as agreeably as he could, and to give, as it were, short Maps of Things which others would not take the Pains to Travel through themselves. In order to this, he devoted his Hours of Leisure, to Inquiries into the Trade and Revenues of this Kingdom. I have, in order to the same End, in Number XL. of this Paper, given the Reader an Extract out of his Excellent *Essay upon Trade*; and shall now, with the same View, proceed to a Quotation out of an *Introduction* of his to a *Discourse upon Grants and Resurrections*, shewing how our Ancestors have proceeded with such Ministers as have procured to themselves Grants of the Crown Revenue; and that the forfeited Estates ought to be applied towards the Payments of the Publick Debts. I have taken it from the Second Edition of that Treatise Printed in the Year 1700. and what I have here extracted, is to be found contained between Page 9, and Page 18. And I doubt not, but this Quotation will excite in the Hearts of all Young Men a Detestation and a hearty Resentment against any corrupt Ministers, if any, within the Compass of their Lives, should chance

to appear and injure the Publick Revenue; and it must, in this Celebrated Month of November, raise a better and nobler Idea of the Great King *William*, than any Panegyrick I could form upon him.

**N**O T only the Laws of this Kingdom (*says this ingenious Gentleman*) but of other Places, and the *Roman* Laws, provide, that the Priests should not be decieved in his *Organs*; for he whose Thought are employ'd in the weighty Cares of Empire, is not presumed to inspect smaller Things so exactly as Private Persons; the Laws therefore bestow him against the Surprizes and *Machinations* of Deceitful Men.

**H**O W his farther Security, the Laws likewise inflict severe Punishment upon those who defend him in his Stores, Treasures, or Revenues, counting such Publick Robbers more Criminal than Petty and Common Thieves.

**B**UT the Laws from chiefly lovell'd against those in whom he reposes the greatest Trust: Therefore the Legislative Power of all Countreys has rigorously animadverted upon such Ministers and Officers, through whose Fraud, Negligence, or Crime, his Affairs have suffered any Damages of which may be given Variety of Precedents.

**B**UT when he has been exhausted by the too great Munificence of his own Temper, and thro' the false Representations and suble Contrivances of those about him, and when thereby the Publick has become weak and ruin'd, and unable to protect itself, he has

been

been assisted by the Laws; and such as have been vigilant for his Safety, jealous of his Honour, and careful for the Common Good, have thought it their Duty to look into his Gifts, and to resume his Grants; of which diverse Instances and Examples might be given.

BUT notwithstanding the Wisdom of the Laws, and of Law-Makers, it has been always a Point of the highest Difficulty to keep within its proper Veins this *Life-Blood* of the Body Politick; so prone have Corrupt Ministers ever been to urge Princes to needless and destructive Bounty, especially when they themselves are to be the Largest Sharers in it.

KINGS are the *Fathers of their Country*; but, unless they keep their *Estates*, they are such *Fathers* as the *Sons maintain*, which is against the Order of Nature, who makes all these Cares descend, and places *Fostering, Nourishment, and Protection* in the Parent. But the Prince is our *Common Father*, and therefore all that tends to his *Safety, Ease, and State*, is due to him; However, the less he is necessitated to depend upon his *Children*, the more he is respected.

AND Kings are not to account themselves Fathers of a *Party* only, or of none but those who rush into the Presence, and whisper to them; they are Fathers of the *whole Body* of the People; they are not to reckon themselves Fathers of their *Favourites* only, as Henry the Third of France did; who said, *He would grow a good Husband, when he had marry'd his Children the Dukes of Joyeuse and Espernon*. Their Paternal Affection is to reach to *all their Subjects*: And as

in a *private Family*, *Partiality* to one *Brother* begets Hatred and Divisions, so in a *Nation* it produces Discontent and Heart-burnings to see *three* or *four*, without any *superior Merit*, lifted high over all the rest, enriched with the *Universal Spoils* of a *Country*, and wallowing in *Luxury* and *Wealth*, while the *whole People* groans under *heavy Burthens*.

NOT that Mankind repine that the Prince should have Friends with whom he may communicate his Thoughts, and unbend his Cares, nor to see such Friends the better for his Favours: 'Tis warranted by Examples in the best Reigns. *Mecenas* and *Agrippa*, cherished, enriched, and promoted by *Augustus*, were yet as dear to the rest of *Rome* as they were to that wise Emperor. But they behold with Indignation, Men exalted, who return not to the Prince *reciprocal Kindness*; who *abuse* his Favours; who *sell* his Words; who, by *false Representations*, traduce all others, that they may engross him to themselves; who arrogate to themselves all the Good, and lay upon him the Blame of *unfortunate Counsels*; who have no Regard to his Honour, when their own Safety is in Question; whose Advice tends to their own *private Profit*, without Consideration of their *Master's*, or the *Publick Welfare*; who draw all Lines to their own *corrupted Centre*, whose Ambition is not gratified with any Honours, and whose Avarice is not satiated with *Multiplicity* of *Employments*, nor with *repeated Gifts* and *Grants* out of a *stript Revenue*, and an *exhausted Exchequer*. 'Tis such a Sort of *Favourites* and *Ministers* that the People hate, and exclaim against, and whose Heads they commonly reach at last.

WITH.

WITHOUT any Regard, whether or no it be between *Sun and Sun*, if the Prince is robb'd, the Country *pays* it; and therefore, when the *Hue-and-Cry* hotly pursues the Robbers, Governments are not to wonder: 'Tis true, they now and then escape, especially when in their Depredations upon the Publick there are a *great many* concern'd, and when they have made so *large* a Booty, that they become safe by the *Multitude* of those who have been *Partakers* in it. (For it has been the constant Course of Ministers who would rob a Nation with Impunity, to give to *all* that ask, and to refuse *no* Man who has either *Interest* or *Parts*; that, fortify'd by a *strong Confederacy*, they may bear down all Sort of Inquisition, and *out-brave* the Laws.) But very often the *Wants* of the People, crying aloud, have awaken'd good *Patriots*, and *bold Spirits*, whom neither the *Power*, nor the *Number* of the *Offenders*, could affright; and these *Lovers* of our *Constitution*, in many *former Reigns*, have courageously attack'd, and brought to Condemnation, Persons in the *highest Places* of Authority, who, in *Breach* of their *Trust*, had presum'd to procure to themselves Grants of the King's Lands or Treasure, and who had converted to *their own Use*, what was given and intended for the *Maintenance* and *Preservation* of the *State*.

PRINCES, when they come to know the *true State* of Things, are not unwilling to prevent their own Ruin; Which is manifest from this; That the most *Wise*, *Valiant*, and most *Heroick* of our Kings, have given Way to Inquiries of *this Nature*; and not thought it *inconsistent* with their *Royal Dignity* and *Honour*, to resume even *their own* Grants, when they

have been represented by the *whole Body* of their People as hurtful to the Common-Wealth.

WE have now upon the Throne a KING *willing* and *able* to correct the Abuses of the Age; *Willing*, from the *Wisdom* of his *Mind*, and the *Goodness* of his *Temper*; *Able*, from that *Power* and *strong Interest* which his *Courage* and his other *numberless Virtues* have procured Him in the *Hearts* and *Affections* of his People. Men readily obey and follow *Him* whom they *reverence*; for which Reason some Philosophers have placed the *Original* of *Power* in *Admiration*, either of *surpassing Form*, *great Valour*, or *Superior Understanding*; *Heroick Kings*, whose *high Perfections* have made 'em *awful* to their Subjects, can *struggle with*, and *subdue* the *Corruption* of the *Times*; *A Hercules* can cleanse the *Augean Stable* of the *Filth* which had not been swept away in *Thirty Years*. Princes whom their *Effeminacy*, *Weakness*, or *Levity* have render'd *contemptible*, may fear *Idols* of their *own* making, and stand in *Awe* of Men become terrible only by *Greatness* derived from *them*. They may be afraid to pull down *Ministers*, and *Favourites* grown formidable by the *united Councils* of their *Faction*, by the *Number* of their *Followers*, and *Strength* of their *Adherents*, and so let *Male-administration* proceed on, as thinking it *too big* to be amended; but *Magnanimous Kings*, who have the *People* of their *Side*, need entertain no such Thoughts and Apprehensions; they know that these *Top-heavy Buildings*, rear'd up to an *invidious Height*, and which have no *solid Foundation* in *Merit*, are in a Moment, blown down by the *Breath* of *Kings*. Good Persons indeed, grown *great* and *popular* from the *Fame* of their *Real Worth*

*Worth and Virtues*, may perhaps be dreadful to *bad Rulers*; but *Bad Men*, let 'em have never so much *seeming Greatness*, and *Power*, are very rarely dangerous to *good Princes*.

THE *Cabals* of a *Party*, the *Intrigues* of a *Court*, nor the *Difficulties* *some* may pretend to bring upon his *Affairs*, never terrify a *Wise and Stout King*, bent to *reform* the *State*, who has the *Love* of his *People*, and whose *Interest* is *one and the same* with *Theirs*. We have never yet heard of a *Tumult* raised to *rescue* a *Minister* whom his *Master* desired to bring to a *fair Account*; on the contrary to see *Upstarts*, and *worthless Men*, enrich'd with *Spoils of a Country*, has been the *Occasion* of many *popular Seditions*, which *wise Kings* have appeased by a *just and timely Sacrifice*.





THE  
**TRUE BRITON.**

NUMB. L

*Quis interficit Gracchos, de seditione quærentes?* JUV.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22. 1723.



THE Paragraphs taken from Mr. *Davenant* in our last, were so pleasing to several of our Readers, that we have set apart for this Day's Entertainment all the rest that we think necessary on this Head.

BY the former Part of the Discourse, young Gentlemen are taught how strongly our Laws are formed against all Corrupt Ministers that injure the Publick Revenues: In this Concluding Part, they will be instructed what Artificial Arguments, what vile Insinuations, and what cunning, but unprevailing Stratagems, such wicked Great Men have heretofore used to baffle, silence, discourage, and even ruin those sincere, brave and gallant Patriots, those genuine and Publick-Spirited Sons of Honour, in fine, those

END

TRUE



TRUE BRITONS, that have from Time to Time, stood nobly up in their Country's Cause, and ventur'd, notwithstanding the Power and the Threats of such Evil Ministers, to prosecute them for their intolerable Depeculations.

**A**KING who would reform the State for the general Ease and Benefit of his People, must expect to meet with some Difficulties, especially if a great many of those about him are Partakers in the Abuses he will correct: All sort of Rubs will be laid in the Way, and the Fears of such as may be call'd to an Account, will make 'em set all kind of Engines at Work.

FIRST they will put a high Value upon their own Deserts, and arrogate to themselves, the Single Merit of the Many Millions which the Whole Nation has both freely Paid and Granted: They will produce Precedents of other Ages, and shew long Lists and Grants obtain'd under former Reigns; but, at the same Time, they will take Care not to mention how such Proceedings have been always resented, and often punished in this Kingdom.

THEY will endeavour to blast the Reputation of such as would inquire into their Actions; and though perhaps there are no other possible Ways and Means left to supply the State, but by making them disgorge, and but by bringing them to a Restitution, yet they will pretend, that all Motions leading thereunto, and all Inquiries of this Nature, are nothing but the Effects of Discontent, and the Result of Faction.

AND because, in all their Doings and Counsels, they have never had any View but their own *Private Profit*, they will do their best to persuade the World, That *no Man* acts upon *Principle*; That *all* is sway'd by *particular Malice*; and, That *there* is not left in the Kingdom, any *Party of Men* which consult the *Publick Good*.

THEY who are conscious of their *Guilt*, and apprehensive that the *Justice* of the *Nation* should take Notice of their *Theft* and *Rapine*, will try to give all Things a *false Turn*, and to fill every Place with *false Suggestions*: Sometimes they will accuse *Innocent Persons*, that so, by putting the People upon a *wrong Scent*, they may avoid the *Pursuers*, and escape *unpunished*: At other Seasons they will boast of the *Number* of their *Friends* and *Adherents*, thinking to awe both the *Court* and *Country* with an Opinion that their *Party* is *too Strong* and *too Powerful* to be resisted.

AND, that the Knowledge of their Crimes may never reach the Prince's Ear, they will endeavour to *ingross him to themselves*, by misrepresenting *all others* that are not of *their Cabal*, either as *disaffected* to his *Person*, or as *Enemies* to *Kingly Government*. Thus they did heretofore; and tho' there were truly but *Two Parties* in *England*, consisting of those who would promote *Male-Administration*, because they got by it, and of those who desired Things might be well govern'd, that they, and such as they represented, might be eas'd; which *Two Sides* were heretofore distinguish'd by the Names of *Court* and *Country* *Party*;

Party; to which likewise they could have put an *End*, whenever they had pleased to have minister'd *last Occasion of Complaint*; yet they will revive *old Names of Distinction*, giving odious *Appellations* to the best *Patriots*, pretending there are *dangerous Factions* form'd, so to frighten the *World* with *Phantoms of their own Creation*. These *false Turns* they will give, and these *wrong Suggestions* they will make, in order to drive all *Power* into what they call the *Narrow Party*, as if any Prince could be *safe* that should rely upon so *Narrow and Rotten a Bottom*.

AND when their Actions shall hereafter come to be examin'd in that Place to which our Constitution has intrusted the *Inquiry* and the *Punishment* of such *Offences*, 'tis probable that up will rise some *Arrogant Man*, more *Zealous* for *Himself* than for his *Master*, and cry, *All that we have given among one another, we have deserved by our Services and Labours in the State; what Projects have we not set afoot? and what Sums have we not procur'd? Did not the Ministers in King Charles's Reign give away the Crown Lands? Recall those Grants, and we are ready to surrender ours; Resume all or none: 'Tis next to Demonstration that these Climates arise from a Discontented Party, who would disturb the Government; They who look into our Proceedings all out of Malice, because of the great Things we have done against France; What if such a one got a Hundred thousand Pounds at once, did he not save the Nation? If we are us'd thus, what Encouragement will there be to serve Princes? For my Part, I will never meddle more in your Business: All this tends to lessen the Monarchy, invade the Prerogative, and to set up a Doge of Venice.* Ay, Sir, (perhaps there may be

be added) and the Majority are of this Opinion. By this high Bearing, and these false Suggestions, heretofore, well-meaning Persons have been frightned from teaching at great Offenders, and even the best Patriots, by seeing with what Warmth and Zeal the smallest Corruptions are defended, have been wearied into Silence: And this has made some of our Kings believe, that either the Offenders are grown above the Laws, or that the People consented to those Things which they did not think fit to punish: But wise Princes see through all this; they know that an Honest and Faithful Minister will be contented with moderate Favours; That very often nothing but the ill Contrivance, of the *Ad* belongs to those he employs, and that the Gifts come from the free Affections of the Subject; That Patterns to rule by, are to be sought for out of Good, not Loose Reigns; That Inspections which look too far backward, produce nothing; That a Few may complain without Reason, but that there is Occasion for Redress when the Cry is universal; That no Military Action, or other Merit, can give a Man a just Title to rob the Publick; That even good Ministers are thought no more on when they are out, and that certainly bad Ones may retire without being miss'd; That Absolute Power is not a Plant that will grow in this Soil, and that Statesmen who have attempted to cultivate it here, have pull'd on their own, and their Master's Ruin. A wise Prince, likewise, does not care to see corrupt Officers so earnest to have one another, for 'tis always at His Cost; Nor does He like that his Ministers, when attack'd, should be able to protect themselves in their Crimes by the Power of a Faction; for they who are strong enough to bear down the Law, may presume, in Time, to think they sub-

lift by their *proper Strength*, and that they stand upon *their own Legs*, and so come at last to slight His *Authority*.

BAD MEN have ever given a *False Colour* to their Proceedings, and cover'd their *Ambition, Corruption, and Rapine*, with the *Pretence of their Master's Service*; They make him believe *their Greatness* advances him, whereas it truly tends to his *Diminution*, and he is often *weak* for want of that *Wealth and Power* which they *share* among one another. Their *Riches* have frequently brought *Envy* upon the *Prince*; but we can hardly meet with an Instance of any who in his *Distress* has been assisted from the *Purses* of his *Ministers*; for they are commonly the *first* that fly from his *Misfortunes*; And though they pretend that his *Power* is *reviv'd* in them, and that they make him *strong* by the *Benefits* he lets them bestow, yet a *wise King* sees through all this *Artifice*, and knows, That he who would reap any *Advantage* from his *Favours* in the *Opinions* of Men, must make 'em sensible, that they owe them *singlely* to his *Goodness*, and not to the *Intercession* of those about him.

BUT of all the *False Suggestions* made by those who have arriv'd at a *great Power* by *wicked Arts*, none have prov'd so dangerous as these, which, in former Reigns, have been frequently insinuated in the *Cabinet*. Sir, we are your *only Friends*; stick by us, and we will stick by you. Our *Measures* are *displeasing* to the *People*, so were those of former *Ministers*. A few well united, and in one *Bottom*, have guided this *Nation*, and with *hard Reins*, as Witness the *Times* of *Cromwel*. Mind not the *Qualifications* of any *Min*  
for

for this or that Office in the State: Is he with us? If he be hearty, it ought to cover all other Defects: Turn out and discountenance such as are not intirely with us in all our Councils: Make your Court of a Piece: Let none presume to be directed by his own Conscience or Reason; Ought they to be in your Service who dare think your Ministers can be in the Wrong? Why do such and such Great Men refuse such and such Employments? Is it not plainly out of Disaffection to the present Government? or, That they like Popularity better than any Favours you can bestow upon them? Many are infected with Republican Principles, and several have an Eye towards the other Side of the Water. Have not other Hands been tried and found resty? but we stick at nothing: The other Party has been made use of, but 'twas thought fit to lay them aside: 'Tis indeed, pretended, that with them is the Integrity, the good Opinion of the Nation, the Substance, Learning, Parts, Knowledge, and Experience in Affairs; however, we are more diligent, and better united. But does not there lie a kind of Necessity upon you to make use of us, and us only? Does the other Side make any Offers to come in? Loaded, as they say we are, with the Publick Hatred, and though we may be thought unfit to carry on your Business, yet 'tis better joining with us than to stand alone. Is not the other Side cold and reserv'd? and do not the best Men among them refuse to meddle in the Administration? With such like False Whisperers, in former Reigns, the Ears of Princes have been poison'd, and by these pretended Friends they were induc'd to purge, as they call it, 'till the Body Politick was quite exhausted of all its good Spirits: Such a one, who had done a Thousand Faithful Services, must be laid aside, because his just Fear, would

would not permit him to give into the last bad Measures. *This Man was against me; We suspect such another; Some are too cautious; Some too discerning; Others left us in such an important Vote.* And they grow to that Presumption, by degrees, as to advise, that a whole Party should be *frown'd upon, depress'd, and utterly trodden down*; And thus they Lop and Lop, on this and that Hand, cutting away the *Tall, Sound, and Substantial Timber* that us'd to shelter them from the *Winds*, 'till in the End, they leave the Government a *Trunk naked, defenceless, and obnoxious to every Storm*; But when they proceed so far as to get the Prince to declare openly *for one, and against the other Side*, they lay the *Ax* to its very *Root*.

SOME Kings have thought it Politick to *nourish Factions* in their *Court*; but then they preserv'd themselves *Neuter*, and so made *both Sides* subservient to *their Designs*; and even *this* has been rather esteem'd *Subtlety* than *Wisdom*: But no Prince, that could help it, did ever let *Faction* grow *National*; However, if 'twas out of his Power to prevent *this* Mischief, 'twas never thought Prudent in him to *lift himself on either Side*; And *Henry III. of France* is a memorable Instance, how fatal 'tis for the *Sovereign* to become the *Head of any Party*.

PARTIALITY is the little Weakness of *Private Men*, and unbecoming the Greatness of a Prince, whose Favour should shine upon the whole Body of his People, as the Sun sheds his *benign Influence* upon the universal Face of Nature, not warming one Part of the *Globs only*: If it can be compass'd, he should quite root out *Faction*; but if the *Defense* be too *int-*  
veterate

*veterate to be cur'd, without doubt 'tis a Point of the  
 highest Wisdom for him to bear himself evenly between  
 both, so that neither Side may despair of Favour; or,  
 at least, so carry it, that both Sides may remain in full  
 Assurance to find equal Justice. Nor is it impossible  
 to contrive Matters so as to beget an Emulation in  
 Parties which may produce good Effects; that is, by  
 wise Governing, it may be so order'd, that both Sides  
 shall be at Strife, not which shall flatter most, but  
 which shall do the Prince and the Publick the most  
 Honest, and the most Faithful Service; And this is  
 done when (without any Regard under what Banners,  
 in a divided Country, Men had list'd themselves)  
 those Persons are pitch'd upon for the Ministerial Part  
 of Government, who are most remarkable for their  
 Capacity, Experience, Integrity, and Knowledge in  
 Affairs; And a Prince who makes such a Choice of  
 Ministers, will soon beget a Virtuous Emulation be-  
 tween the Factions, and set both Sides upon striving  
 which shall serve most cheaply, with the fewest Selfish  
 Designs, and which shall handle his, and the Nation's  
 Money, with the cleanest Hands: But when by the  
 Favour of those that Rule, one Side is become much  
 superior to the other, this Virtuous Emulation ceases,  
 and both Sides contend only to put one another in the  
 Wrong, each Side obstructing what the other moves,  
 let it be never so much for the Publick Good: But  
 when the Mischief is grown to such a Height, that  
 being of a Party, is to be the Principal if not the  
 Only Recommendation, then the Hottest Men, who  
 are generally the Worst and Corruptest Members of it,  
 are sure to have the most Power; And when the Ad-  
 ministration is in their Hands, they proceed without  
 Comptrol; for the Side which should oppose them is  
 dis-*



*discountenanced, frown'd upon, out of Credit, and discourag'd from inquiring, because their Inquiries are blacken'd and misrepresented; And when all this happens, they who have the Power, rob the Prince, waste his Treasure, and run him into immense Debts: Thus Kings heretofore, who shew'd themselves partial to a Party, had the Service only of the worst Part of their People, and their Reigns were commonly anxious and unquiet, because, when engag'd with a Side, they were often forc'd, against the Nature of their Office, to protect the Bad against the Good, and even to defend the Misd-administration by which they suffer'd.*

THE Letter from our kind Correspondent A. Z. is come to Hand, and shall be inserted the first Opportunity.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LI.

— *Hic Niger est, hunc tu, Romane, caveto.* HOR.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25. 1723.



HERE are many pernicious Creatures, that seem, as it were, to be born to be *profess'd Enemies* to the *Repose of all the World*: Of all these *obnoxious Animals*, who make to themselves an execrable Livelihood by disturbing the *Peace and Quiet of Humane Society*, there is not any so fatally mischievous, and so frightfully dangerous, as that Wretch, who makes Use of all the proper Artifices which intitle him to the Name of a COMMON INFORMER.

IF we consider him with regard to *himself*, we shall be apt to deplore and bewail the weak and lamentable Condition of Man's Nature, that it should ever be capable of falling so despicably low, that it should ever be unhappily liable to such monstrous Corruptions; as are the daily Practices and hourly Pursuits

N<sup>o</sup> 51. *The* TRUE BRITON. 447

Pursuits of this sort of Miscreant, of this Two-legg'd Beast of Prey. An INFORMER is the very worst Child of Perdition; He is an Abstract of Mischief in its most frightful Shape; the most hideous Piece of Deformity; the most ugly Prodigy that Nature, in her utmost State of Depravity, can possibly produce.

THE main Delight and Pleasure which he takes, consists in distributing about him the Seeds of Strife, Discord, and Confusion; in scattering as much Pain and Torment, as he possibly can among all with whom he converses. The poor *Good Man*, that is frail in his Notions of Things, that is weak of Understanding, but truly honest in the Disposition of his Heart; that is open, sincere, and righteous in his Desires, but perhaps a little imprudent in his Conduct: Such an innocent Man, who has all the Right in the World to the Instruction and Assistance of every faithful Companion in Life that is bless'd with superior Talents, is the very Person, whom the faithless and perfidious Informer takes an inhumane Satisfaction to beset and betray. And he is, if considered in this Light, as dangerous with regard to others, as he is deformed with regard to himself.

SUCH a Man, surely, can never be said to enjoy Life himself, let him make what Advantages he will, who is thus eternally breaking the Rest, and disturbing the Enjoyments of his Fellow-Creatures. He must, at some deliberate Hours, let him be as harden'd as he will, be pain'd with the severest Remorse, that he is the Terrifier and the Tormentor of Honest and Virtuous Men, and the Abomination of these

GREAT BEING, who superintends over all human Affairs, and sees the Secrets of all Hearts. In this View, he can look upon himself as no better than an incarnate *Demon*, that gratifies the most hellish and cruel Appetites, in leading well-meaning Men into Temptation, and in beholding them suffer for the very Crimes of which he knows himself to have been the Main Spring, the Master-Engine, and the Original Author.

IF an Honest Man falls into the Company of any other wicked Set of Men upon Earth but *these*, he has nothing to fear, nothing to apprehend, but from the Contagion of their Vices, and may make his own Virtue his Safeguard : But if he unluckily lights into the fatal Conversation of an artificial and guileful *Informers*, his very *Virtues* themselves, will be made the Measures of his own Undoing. — Is there, for Example, a Man who is a warm and sincere Defender of *Justice*, but happens to be of a Temper a little too apt to be inflamed on a sudden, against any Person who is made appear to have acted in direct Opposition to that Virtue ? Why then, such a Man is known by an *Informers*, as soon as he has eyed him and marked his Disposition, to be a proper Object of his cruel Designs; and he doubts not to make him his certain Prey. The smiling Russian will pick him up, insinuate himself into the Bosom of this Unhappy Innocent, and hug him 'till he devours him. The *Informers*, in such Company, is always loudest in his Zeal of speaking in Praise of that Virtue and Worth, which he is that same Moment longing and conspiring to betray. He would make his innocent Companion believe, by his colourable Discourses, that he

has

has settled within his own Conscience all the Rules and Maxims that are sufficient to uphold a whole Court of Justice, though his Design is to violate, by that Means, every Degree of Common Honesty. The artful Villain wins, by these frequent, these double-tongu'd and plausible Harangues, the Heart of the simple and upright Plain-dealer: He then, from Time to Time, drops prejudicial Hints and false Accounts of some Great Men, which wound their Character by Degrees; till at last, the Honest Man, by the several Impressions which he credulously swallows from so seeming a Saint, believes such great Personages to be the very Opposites of what they really are, and simply utters some warm and unguarded Expressions, with an Honest Indignation, against Persons, whom he has such seeming good Evidence to induce him to believe Highly Criminal. When such a vile Double-Dealer has brought an honest imprudent Man to these Lengths, away he goes to Persons in Power, informs them of the base Usage their Characters suffer: gets a simple Man punished for a Crime of which himself was the real but hidden Source, and perhaps obtains a Reward for his Discovery, from those Great Persons themselves, whom he industriously caused to be thus publicly traduced.

IN this View, *Informers* are as detestable to Great and Wise Men, as they are fatal to Little Ones that are Simple and Honest.

METHINKS, therefore, a Man who is *Truly* Great, will never be induced to give Ear to such execrable Wretches as these; much less employ them.

Any Person in Authority must know, that an *Informers* cannot offer himself under that Title, without being a *Designing Man*; And who will trust a *Designing Man* in Affairs where, if he does not find any Work stirring, and ready cut out, as I may say, to his Hands, he can, if he pleases, (and he certainly will, if he can, because it is his Interest) create himself Business, though it is at the Expence of that Person's Fame, from whom he hopes a Reward? Would it not be more becoming the Wisdom of a Great Man, when such a Flatterer offer'd himself in the Quality of an *Informet*, though he did it with all the artful Address and Eloquence, and all the seeming Sincerity, that could be, to imagine, that all the true Sentiments which he gilded over with the flattering Ornaments of Speech, were no more than if, in plain Terms, he should have delivered himself thus : *Sir, or, My Lord, If you will feed me with Money, I will make it my Care and Study to procure you to be heartily abused and affronted. I will make even many Honest Men, by some Arts I have, hate you, that would otherwise naturally love you; I will find out such Ways and Means, that, rather than fail, I will draw in some good unwary People in spite of their own Teeth, to think Ill of you, speak Ill of you, and offend you, that you may have the Pleasure of punishing those Persons, who would otherwise, perhaps, have extoll'd your Conduct, and whom you, in your Turn, might perhaps have had Cause to approve for their Honesty, Simplicity and Justice.*

AS *false Informers*, therefore, are prejudicial to all Ranks of Men, methinks it is a great Pity there should not be some severe Laws enacted against them.

The

Nº 51. *The* TRUE BRITON. 451

The Generation of People called *Blacks*, that has of late risen up among us, consists of Persons, whose Plunders and Murders cry aloud for severe Chastisement : But *base* and *false Informers* are, if possible, the proper Objects of greater Vengeance than the former ; They deserve to be included under the Name of THE BLACKS, and to have the same Punishments assigned them. . . They are downright Man-hunters : And Persons that have had the greatest Authority to suppress them, and neglected doing it, have, in former Times, been hunted to Death by them, and have had the Fate of *Aëdon*, who fell a Prey to his own Hounds. There are no Men of Honour but what had rather lay down their Lives, than have their good Name murder'd ; and if a *base Informer* does not reach the *Person* of a Man, he is sure, in a great measure, to destroy and kill the *Reputation* of any one when he heartily undertakes it.

SINCE, therefore, it is impossible to enumerate all the Evils, to which these Miscreants may expose the *Little*, the *Great*, the *Virtuous* and *Imocent*, it would be happy, if, whensoever any of them should chance to be found, and discover'd crowding in among TRUE BRITONS, with an Intention to do Mischief, there should be a wholsome Law made, that *Transportation*, at least, should be their Punishment.





# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LII.

*Miraris cum in argento post omnia ponas ;  
Si nemo preslet, quem non merearis, amorem.* HOR.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29. 1723.



**W**HENEVER a wicked Minister finds he has brought upon himself the *Odium* of his Fellow-Subjects, in order to palliate his Offences and excuse his Conduct, he generally imputes to the *Variableness* and *Inconstancy* of the *People* the Opposition and Ill-will he meets with in the Prosecution of his unjust Designs. So great is the Presumption and Partiality of such a Man to his *Single Self*, as to arraign and condemn the *Judgment* and *Senses* of *Millions* of People, who are Sufferers by his Administration, rather than to take to himself the deserved Blame of his own wicked Actions.

MANKIND, 'tis true, is fond of *Novelty*, and the rising Statesman is generally more approv'd and applauded, than when he has rivetted himself in the Affections of his Master, and grown into the Envied Bulk of a *Favourite*. But this Change of Sentiment  
• and



and Behaviour in the People with Regard to such a Minister, is not so much the Effect of *Levity* in the one, as of *Evil Conduct* in the other. The *New Minister* usually paves his Way to Power by the Disgrace of his *Predecessor*; and as Male-Administration is generally imputed to the *fallen Favourite*, and that the Publick has laboured under some Hardships and Oppressions, the natural Consequences of his Mismanagements, 'tis no Wonder that the People pursue the *One* with *Obloquy* and *Reproach*, and confirm, with *unanimous Acclamations*, the Prince's Choice of the *Other*, in Hopes to be freed, by his Means, from the Difficulties to which they were subjected by the Conduct of the *former*.

BUT if a little Time convinces the World, That the *New rais'd* Grandee, far from rectifying the Abuses introduced by his *Predecessor*, treads in the same Steps, and even lays *greater* and *heavier* Burthens on the People, than those under which they groan'd before, what must be the natural Consequences of such Oppressions, but Murmurs and Uneasiness? Or, How can it be expected but that the Indignation and Discontents of the Publick, thus *frustrated* in their *just Expectations*, should rise to a Height proportionable to their Disappointment? and that they should load with Execrations the same Man whom (while they hoped better Things from him) they followed with Acclamations? This Behaviour of the People is certainly very *Just* and *Equal*. They are still *consistent* with *themselves*; and 'tis the *Minister*, and not *they*, that ought to be charged as well with *Inconstancy* as *Degeneracy* and *Ingratitude*: And he stands equally condemned by the Rules of *True Po-*

*licity and Honesty*, for nor erecting on such *favourable Prepossessions*, when it was so much in his Power, an absolute Empire, both for his Master and himself, in the Affections of his Fellow-Subjects. And this, no doubt, would be the surest Means to recommend him still more to the Esteem of his Sovereign, and thereby establish his Administration on the *best* and most *permanent Basis*, the *reciprocal* Interest both of *Prince and People*, which a good Minister will always esteem to be inseparable.

OF all the Countries in *Europe*, *England* and *Naples* are censur'd most in Authors for Levity and Disaffection to Governors. The People of these Two Kingdoms are said to be prone to Change, and never long pleas'd with their Rulers: But I cannot give into the Charge, nor think there is any Foundation in Justice for this *National Censure*. Contrary Proofs may be given for this Kingdom, to go no farther back, in its Affection to King *Charles II.* notwithstanding the Luxuries of his Court, and many Instances of Male-Administration and Oppression in his Reign.

AS to *Naples*, the Distance they are at from their Prince, and the Administration of Viceroys (who generally study to raise their Fortunes at the Publick Expence, and being Governors but for an uncertain Time, hasten to accumulate Riches) are principal Causes of the Misery and Discontents of that Nation. Had it not been for Exorbitant *Gabels*, *Massanello* would have found no Followers. Nor would the *Neapolitans* have risen as one Man, to throw off the *Spanish Yoke*, and declare for the present Emperor, had

had not the Duke d' *Escalona*, Viceroy for *Philip V.* been a weak Man, and made a Property of the People. And if His Imperial Majesty would condescend to appoint an Arch-Dutchess his Sister, to reside among that People, (as was promised in his Name to the *Neapolitans* when they submitted to his Obedience) instead of Viceroys, the best of whom are but Sponges on the Publick, the Imperial Court, in all Probability, need never more be subject to the shocking Apprehensions which alarm their Cabinet, from the Disaffection of that People, every Time a *Spanish Squadron* appears in the *Mediterranean*.

THERE are very few Instances, if any, of Insurrections or Murmurs in any Nation under the Sun, where the People have not been oppressed, and where the general Interests of the Publick have been pursued. What Hardships, what Taxes, what Destruction and Havock of the Flower of their Youth, have not *Russia*, *France* and *Sweden* undergone, to support the tow'ring Projects and enterprizing Views of the present *Czar*, and the late *French* and *Swedish* Monarchs? And yet how patiently! how faithfully! while they have had the Pleasure of being commanded by Active and Martial Princes, who would suffer none to pillage them but themselves, tho' but for the Acquisition of a *False* and *Fantastick* Glory; whilst the Breast of every Private Man has glow'd with a Spark of the same Fire, and every little Creature has taken to himself *his* Share of Praise, flattering himself to partake in the Glory of his Prince, and the extended Limits of his Native Country; to which, indeed, he might lay some Sort of Claim, because they were purchased at the Expence of his Blood,

Blood, and the Loss of Liberty and all the valuable Comforts of Life. And to so great a Degree has this *false Glory* reign'd in every Little *Gallie* Bosom, that nothing has been more common, than to hear the very *Refugees* who are dispersed Abroad in Foreign Countries, and reckon themselves persecuted for Religion, as well as Millions of poor Wretches who inhabit that Kingdom, and are, in a manner destitute of Food and Raiment, boast, with a Pleasure so great as has made them, for the Time, forget their *Sufferings*, their *Hunger*, and their *Nakedness*, of the Magnificence and Conquests of their *Grand Monarque*, who to support the same, amidst the exuberant Plenties of a most beneficent Climate, had reduced them, their Families, and half their Nation, to a State of Beggary. And were we to look into other Nations and Countries more remote, we shall find, That the Distractions in *Poland*, the shaking off the Yoke of Absolute Power in *Sweden*, the Revolutions in *Portugal* and *Persia*, as well as the Revolt of the *United Provinces*, and the late *Happy Revolution* in *England*, are so many Confirmations of the Truth of our Argument, and have been all owing to *Mis-Administration*, rather than to the *Levity* of the People, who generally bear a great deal before they grow violent.

THIS being the Case, all wise Princes have had a watchful Eye on the Transactions of their Prime Ministers; and as soon as they have discover'd a National *Odium* run strong against the Administration of such, and that an over-grown Minister had amass'd immense Wealth by nefarious Practices and the Plunder of his Fellow-Subjects, they have not thought proper to protect *one Man* to the Injury and Abuse of *Millions*.  
but

but have made a timely Sacrifice of such a Person, to appease the Repentments of an injur'd Nation, and so have dissipated the gathering Storms of General Discontent, and thereby render'd their Reigns Happy and Glorious.

I CANNOT give a better Instance of this, than by the following Paragraph, which *Davenant* collects from Two excellent *English* Historians, in Pages 307, 308, of his Discourse on *Resumptions*, which being very brief, I shall transcribe intire, with a severe, but just Reflexion of that Gentleman, on several Ministers who in the Times since those of *Henry I.* have fill'd the principal Posts of Honour and Profit in this Kingdom.

“THE first Great Person whom we find question'd  
 “ since the *Norman* Government, was *Ranulphus*  
 “ Bishop of *Durham*, who bore the Office of what  
 “ we now call Lord Treasurer of *England*, in the  
 “ Time of *William Rufus*. This Man had been the  
 “ Principal Instrument of the Profusion, and of what  
 “ is its Consequence, those Extortions, that disgrac'd  
 “ the Reign of *Rufus*: Of whose Times *William* of  
 “ *Malmsbury* speaking, says, None were then Rich  
 “ but such as dealt with the Exchequer, *Nullus*  
 “ *Dives nisi Nummularius*. This wicked Minister  
 “ was brought to Punishment by *Henry I.* who cast  
 “ him into Prison, and loaded him with Chains.  
 “ *Matthew Paris* says, *De Communi Consilio Gentis*  
 “ *Anglorum posuit eum Rex in vinculis*. *Malmsbury*  
 “ gives him this Character, *Ranulphus Clericus ex*  
 “ *infimo genere hominum, Lingua & Assiduitate pro-*  
 “ *fectus ad summum; Expilator Divitum, Extermi-*  
 “ *nator*

" *nator Pauperum, Confiscator alienarum Hereditatum,*  
 " *Invictus Causfidicus, & cum verbis, tum rebus im-*  
 " *modicus; nec aliorum curaret odium dummodo com-*  
 " *placeret Dominum.* It seems he was a little inso-  
 " lent Fellow, who by his fluent Tongue and cring-  
 " ing at Court, had got Power enough to do much  
 " Hurt in *England* : A mischievous Tool against the  
 " Publick, as well as an Oppressor of private Men;  
 " Subtle to invent Wickedness, and Bold to put it in  
 " Execution, and one who would stick at nothing  
 " to raise himself. *Matthew Paris* speaking of him,  
 " says, He was, *Homo perversus, & ad omne Scelus*  
 " *paratus, quem Rex constituerat Procuratorem suum*  
 " *in Regno ut evelleret, destrueret, raperet & disper-*  
 " *deret, & omnia omnium bona ad Fiscum Commodum*  
 " *comportaret.* We have thus painted out this States-  
 " man in the Colours as he is represented by those Two  
 " Venerable Writers. And he so much resembles se-  
 " veral bad Ministers, who, in the Ages since, have  
 " succeeded both to his Post and Power, that one  
 " would think they had chosen to take him for their  
 " Pattern. "





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LIH.

*Adde quod ingrato meritorum judice virtus*

*Nostra perit.*

LUCAN.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2. 1723.

*To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.*

S I R,



TAKE the Liberty to recommend the following Lines from *Ben Johnson's* Excellent Play of *SEJANUS*, which will shew the Methods used in the Administration of Evil Ministers in former Ages, to suppress the Publick Spirit of such Authors as have dared to paint in proper Colours their vile Transactions. That Excellent Poet, after having set forth the Artifices made use of to destroy *Caius Silius*, a Great *Roman* General, introduces in his Third Act, the Senate conven'd for the Tryal of *Cremutius Cordus*, for asserting, in a Book of *Annals* which he wrote, *That Cassius was the Last of the Romans*; and, I believe, your Readers will not be displeas'd if I transcribe the whole Scene, which shew

shews by what *Inuendo's* and *strain'd Inferences* the  
Tools of *Sejanus* endeavour'd to hunt down that  
*Roman Annalist*.

Enter (into the Senate) *Præco, Cordus, Satrius, Natta*.

*Præ.* Cremutius Cordus!    *Cord.* Here.

*Præ.* Satrius Secundus,  
*Bimarius Natta, You are his Accusers.*

*Arr.\* Two of Sejanus' Blood-bounds, whom he breeds  
With Human Flesh, to Bay at Citizens.*

*Afer. † Stand forth before the Senate and confront him.*  
*Satrius. I do accuse thee here, Cremutius Cordus,  
To be a Man factious and dangerous,  
A Sower of Sedition in the State,  
A turbulent and discontented Spirit;  
Which I will prove from thine own Writings here,  
The Annals thou hast publish'd; where thou bir'st  
The present Age, and with a Viper's Tooth,  
Being a Member of it, dar'st that Ill  
Which never yet degenerate Bastard did  
Upon his Parent.*

*Natta. To this I subscribe;  
And, forth a World of more Particulars,  
Instance in only one: — Comparing Men  
And Times, thou praise'st Brutus, and affirm'st  
That Cassius was the Last of all the Romans.*

*Cotta.\* How! what are we then?*

*Varro.\* What is Cæsar! Nothing?*

*Afer. My Lords, this strikes at every Roman's Pri-  
In whom reigns Gentry and Estate of Spirit,    [vates*

\* *Arruntius*, an honest Roman Senator.

† A smooth-tongu'd Declaimer, and Tool of *Sejanus*.

\* *Cotta* and *Varro* Two Senators (the latter Consul) both Implements of  
*Sejanus*.



*To have a Brutus brought in Parallel,  
A Paricide, an Enemy of his Country,  
Rank'd and preserv'd to any real Worth  
That Rome now holds. This is most strangely Injustice  
Most full of Spight and insolent Upbraiding.  
Nor is't the Time alone is here disgrac'd,  
But the whole Man of Time ; yea Cæsar's self  
Brought in Disvalue, and He aim'd at most  
By OBLIQUE Glance of his Licentious Pen.  
Cæsar, if Cassius were the Last of Romans,  
Thou hast no Name.*

*Tiberius. Let's hear him answer. Silence.*

*Cordus. So innocent I am of FACT, my Lords,  
As but my WORDS are argu'd : Yet those Words  
Not reaching either Prince, or Prince's Parent,  
The which your Law of Treason comprehends.  
Brutus and Cassius I am charg'd to have prais'd ;  
Whose Deeds, when many more besides myself  
Have writ, not one hath mention'd without Honour.*

*Great Titus Livius, Great for Eloquence  
And Faith amongst us, in his History  
With so great Praises Pompey did extoll,  
As oft Augustus call'd him a Pompeian ;  
Yet this not hurt their Friendship. In his Book  
He often name Scipio, Afranius,  
Yea, the same Cassius, and this Brutus too,  
As worthiest Men ; not Thieves and Paricides,  
Which Notes upon their Fames are now impos'd.  
Afinius Pollio's Writings quite throughout  
Give them a Noble Memory ; so Metella  
Renown'd his General Cassius : Yet both these  
Liv'd with Augustus, full of Wealth and Honours.*

*To Cicero's Book, where Cato was heav'd up,  
Equal with Heav'n, what else did Cæsar answer*

*(Being*

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*(Being then Dictator) but with a penn'd Oration,  
As if before the Judges ? Do but see  
Antonius' Letter : Read but Brutus' Pleadings ;  
What vile Reproach they bold against Augustus,  
False, I confess, but with much Bitterness.  
The Epigrams of Bibaculus and Catullus,  
Are read, full stuff'd with Spight of both the Cæsars ;  
Yet Deified Julius, and no less Augustus,  
Both bore them and contemn'd them. I not know  
Promptly to speak it, whether done with more  
Temper or Wisdom : For such Obloquies,  
If they despised be, they die suppress ;  
But if with Rage acknowledg'd, they're confess.*

*The Greeks I slip, whose Licence not alone  
But also Lust, did'scape unpunish'd :  
Or where some one, by Chance, Exception took,  
He Words with Words reveng'd. But, in my Work,  
What could be aim'd more free, or farther off  
From the Time's Scandal, than to write of those  
Whom Death from Grace or Hatred had exempted ?*

*Did I, with Brutus and with Cassius,  
Arm'd, and possess'd of the Philippi Fields,  
Incense the People in the Civil Cause  
With dang'rous Speeches ? Or, Do they, being slain  
Seventy Tears since, as by their Images,  
(Which not the Conqueror hath defac'd) appears,  
Retain that guilty Memory with Writers ?*

*Posterity pays every Man his Honour.  
Nor shall there want, though I condemned am,  
That will not only Cassius well approve,  
And of Great Brutus' Honour mindful be,  
But that will also Mention make of me.*

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*Tiberius. Take him hence.*

*We shall determine of him at next Sitting.*

*Cot. Mean Time give Order that his Books be burnt  
To the Aediles.*

*Sejanus. You have well advis'd.*

*Afer. It fits not such licentious Things should live  
T'upbraid the Age.*

*Arr. If th' Age were good they might.*

*Latiares. Let 'em be burnt.*

*Gallus. All sought and burnt to Day.*

*Præ. The Court is up. Liſtors, reſume the Falſes.*

*Manent Arruntius, Sabinus, Lepidus.*

*Arr. Let 'em be burnt: O how ridiculous  
Appears the Senate's brainleſs Diligence,  
Who think they can, with preſent Power, extinguiſh  
The Memory of all ſucceeding Times!*

*Sab. 'Tis true; when (contrary) the Punishment  
Of Wit, doth make th' Authority increaſe.  
Nor do they ought, that uſe this Cruelty  
Of Interdiction, and this Rage of Burning,  
But purchaſe to themſelves Rebuke and Shame,  
And to the Writers an Eternal Name.*

*Lep. It is an Argument the Times are ſore,  
When Virtue cannot ſafely be advanc'd,  
Nor Vice reprov'd.*

*To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.*

*Durham, Nov. 16. 1723.*

SIR,

**H**AVING been at this Diſtance almoſt ever  
ſince I ſent you my laſt very long Letter, your  
Paper N<sup>o</sup> XLV. but very lately came to my Hands.

H h

A S

AS to the Request made by the Gentleman who does me the Honour to subscribe himself PHILO-ORTHODOX, that I would continue the Subject of my Letters from the *Revolution* down to the present Time, and which you are pleased to recommend to my Consideration; I had once intended so to do, and for that Purpose had extracted some Materials from the Writings of the principal Dissenting Teachers; and in particular from the *Vindication* of that very Mr. *Pierce*, which your angry Correspondent of Nov. 4. opposes to me: Who, amongst other innumerable Instances of Scandal, irreverently tells us p. 211. *That the Ceremonies of the Church of England are dear at the Price of one Single Half-Penny*, and imputes *Relicks of Popery, Cruelty, Schism*, and what not? to the Establish'd Church. I say, I had intended so to do; But some very pressing Affairs calling me into the Country, and my whole Time being fill'd up with Endeavours to save a Worthy Family from the Jaws of Ruin, I am obliged to quit my Design, and shall be very glad, if what you have been pleased to insert from me, may be thought to merit the Favour of being continued and concluded by some other of your worthy Correspondents.

I T H E rather wish this, because as your Papers are not calculated only for the *Amusement* of a *short-liv'd Day*, but in all Likelihood will transmit to late Posterity the Subjects on which they treat, so I promise myself, that the Compleating of this Design, of deducing from undeniable *Masters of Fact*, the *Actions* and *Provocations* of our *Sectaries*, will be of more Service, and carry a greater Weight, than the  
best

best *Single Authorities* or *Arguments* that can be produced; because *They* can only be the *Judgment* of *Parties* in the Dispute, however *Excellent* and *Unassailable*. And it is certain, that the *Principles* and *Practices* of these Constant Disturbers of our Peace, are such flagrant *Arguments* against them, that they need no more than a bare *Recapitulation*, or *Deduction* from *incontestible Facts* and *their own Writings*, to merit the *Abhorrence* and *Censure* of all unprejudiced Minds.

I HEARTILY wish you Success in your Generous Labours for the Publick Good; and remain,

S I R,

*Your Constant Admirer,*

*and Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUM B. LIV.

*Pallida Mors equo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas.  
Rigumque turre.* —

HOR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6. 1723.



THE Death of the REGENT of FRANCE is now the Subject of every Body's Discourse: We expect shortly to see a Time appointed for Publick Mourning to be worn in Remembrance of that Great Personage who so suddenly departed from the Stage of this World: And as there is no doubt but that such a General Outward Shew of Grief will be accompanied with an Inward and Sensible Concern of many considering and sincere Persons, at the Loss which the World may probably sustain upon the Decease of so important a Minister of Affairs, that must necessarily bear a Relation with the Transactions of several Courts of Europe, I shall, for the Entertainment of this Day, endeavour to form a Wholesome and Political Meditation upon DEATH.

I HAD

I HAD no sooner ventured to write down the Words, *A Political Meditation upon DEATH*, than I presently foresaw, that many People would be surprized at the Oddness which there seems to be, at first Sight, in that Phrase; and in such a Way of Thinking, I very well know, it is the common Opinion, That Great Politicians give themselves but little Trouble and Uneasiness about *Death*, and suffer themselves to be but slenderly touch'd with any of those Ideas, about the pleasing or unpleasing Circumstances, that may be consequential to the Period of a Good or Bad Life, which so deeply occupy the Minds of more Illiterate Persons, who go under the Denomination of *Christians*. But how generally soever this Notion may have obtain'd in the World, I cannot intirely come into it. A wise Minister, that sees with so much clearer Eyes than other People, the several Subordinations of Men, and the Means by which all the Humane Species are govern'd in the several Parts of this Habitable World; that looks abroad, and beholds the Rises and the Falls of mighty Empires, brought about by little Means, and yet quite beyond the Reach of Humane Providence to foresee or prevent; such a Wise Minister must acknowledge sooner than any other Person, That they are the plain outward Marks of an Invisible Almighty Hand, which alone could move such small Instruments, as it sometimes does, to bring about such amazing and wonderful Turns, for Ends that we know nothing of till they are brought to their Perfection and Accomplishment.

SUCH a Man, when he does consider, that the Great Superintendant over Human Affairs, is so active in them, must think, that he does some Things, because He is pleased, and others, because He is displeased with the Persons or People, upon whom He acts them. He next forms to himself the Thought that the Deity must delight in Virtue; and that the Great Men, who do what is pleasing in the Eyes of that Deity, must be peculiarly Happy either in this or the other World, or both. From that Moment he regulates his Conscience, and, after having examin'd what is proper to be done in his Station, he enters into a fix'd Resolve, to perform whatever he thinks incumbent upon him, and whatever he believes will be most acceptable to the Great Author and Finisher of his Being, in whose Presence he knows he acts every thing which he performs thro' the whole Course of his Life, and to whom he is sure he is to give an exact Account of all of them, whenever that Course of Life shall be determined.

A MINISTER whose Head is fill'd with these Considerations, can never act amiss. He knows, that every Day he lives, it is as much in Nature possible that he may die; as it is probable he shall fall asleep after long watching. For this Reason he always keeps himself ready to give an Account to the KING of Kings, when He shall be pleased to call him for that purpose; and therefore takes mighty Care to do every Duty of that Office, which the Ruler of Heaven has allotted him under his Royal Vicegerent upon Earth.

SUCH



SUCH a Man keeps his Conscience in a perpetual Calm; He knows no Fear but one, and that is a Fear, which is the Beginning of True Wisdom; a *Religious Fear*, that will not let him dare to think or to do an Ill Thing. Whatever Worldly Greatness he may promise himself might be the Consequence of an Impious Action, he is sure to disdain and dread the doing of it, and is even, upon the *very Foundation* of that Fear, fill'd with such *Fortitude* and turned into such a *Christian Hero*, that no Human Terrors can any more compell or frighten him to do what he esteems to be wicked, than any Human Rewards of Honour or Riches could tempt him to do it.

WHAT can affect the Man with Fear who thus places himself under the Protection of a Being that is All-powerful? What Temporary Bribe can seduce the Man to do Wrong, who has a lively Belief, that his doing Right will be attended with an Eternal Reward; and that the Maker of all the Riches of Nature is to be his Benefactor, after he dies, during a Life that is to know no End?

SUCH a Man, in all the Cases that come before him, is inviolably attach'd to a Spirit of strict Justice. He desires to meet with it Above, and, as he knows that he can only have the same Measure of it *there*, as he distributes it *here below* to his Fellow Creatures, he is sure to exert it here to the purest Degree that he can with a Human Capacity, because he has then the pleasing Expectation, that the Rewards design'd by Justice itself to be bestow'd upon the Just, will be

dealt out to him, by that Being, who alone can exert the Goodness of Justice in its true Perfection.

SUCH a Minister is always Charitable; his Study and the Application of his Life is for the Relief of Mankind, who stand in Need of his Assistance. For he knows, when he weighs the Difference between *Temporal* and *Eternal*, that not only He, but the greatest King that is his Master, is Poor and Needy in the Sight of the KING of Kings.

HE is never Proud, but ever Meek. For he knows that Pride for what the Greatest Man alive enjoys, can be but transitory; and therefore not worthy a Wise Man, that is conscious he is born to be Immortal; and he is well assured, that a Beggar, who is truly Meek of Heart, is intitled to a Blessing of Heaven that is endless, and therefore must be exalted above him.

WOULD you endeavour to make such a Man as this so much as once stagger in Thought towards Injustice? he will tell you, He is to die, and give an Account to his Great Master, and therefore will not do it. Will you tell him, He is to live long, have great Rewards, mighty Honours? He will answer, He must die sooner or later, and no Temporal Rewards, no Temporal Honours, can balance those which are Eternal: He is bound in *Policy* to refuse you. If you cannot *tempt* him to Injustice, will you *threaten* him into it? He has no Terror of any Thing but an Omnipotent Hand; If you put his Body to Death, you do but hasten his Reward; he falls but a *Mortal Victim*, to rise an *Immortal Conqueror*.

SUCH

SUCH is a *Christian Politician* ; He is a worldly Blessing to all under him, and procures an Eternal Blessing to himself : Death can never attack him un-awares : Whether it creeps upon him by the *Secret Bowl of Poison* : Whether the *Sword of a Tyrant openly* robs him of his Life ; or, whether Nature, indulging the *Force of an Apoplexy*, or any other *secret and sudden Disease*, Steals him from the World, he meets Death serenely in every Shape. A *Christian* ought to hope this the Case of the Deceased Prince in *France*, and then 'tis good to follow his Example.

BUT the Person, who is *Political* only with *Temporal Views*, and is no more than *Worldly Wise*, lays mighty Schemes ; forms mysterious Plots and Conspiracies ; heaps up Loads of Riches ; is always afraid of Death ; it takes him in the midst of them all : *Known to every Body*, but a *Stranger to himself*. He dies unpitied here, and accursed hereafter ? He finds himself a mere *Damocles* at a Feast, with a Sword over his Head ; and discovers, too late, that he thought himself a mighty Politician, but is barely a Tool at last.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. LV.

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*Ecce iterum Crispinus.* —

JUV.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 9. 1723.

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 I HAVE often lamented it as a particular Hardship, that whenever I draw the Character of any Great and Good Statesman of Antiquity, not one of the *Hackney Scriblers*, my impotent Adversaries, will adapt that Character to any of their virtuous Pay-Masters. But no sooner can I design the Picture of a *Sejanus*, or a *Ferdinando*, than immediately the whole mercenary Herd draw their envenomed Pens against me, and discover the Original in this or that Great Person of the M—. And yet if you ask that Great Person *himself*, he'll frankly own there is not the least Resemblance.

THIS partial and injurious Treatment I have more particularly experienc'd with relation to my *Spanish Manuscript*; a Narrative of the Times in which it was wrote, so candid and ingenuous, that I thought it not  
un-

undeserving the Publick Eye. At first, I must confess, I hesitated a little as to its Publication. I considered, that a Collection of Manuscripts is seldom had recourse to, when once Mankind are assured they may save themselves that Trouble, by perusing genuine Copies of them in every Bookseller's Shop. However, a Principle of Publick Spirit soon overcame that Consideration, and determined me to let it appear Abroad in the World, to the apparant Diminution of the Value of my Library.

IN Consequence of my Promise at the Close of my Sixteenth Paper, I shall proceed to oblige my Readers with another Extract of this curious Piece, observing only, that, as I judge from the Order of the Pages, the Transactions mentioned in the former Part of this, must have been antecedent, in Point of Time, to those of the other.

Page 9. 'AT this Time *Don Carlos* sat at the Helm of the *Spanish* Affairs, a Person of unshaken Honour and unsuspected Probity; an ample Indication of which, was, that he died un-enriched by the Plunder of his Fellow Subjects. *Don Ferdinando* had, for some time before this, had Petensions to a considerable Share of the Administration; but *Don Carlos*, however he might admire his Eloquence, set a mean Value on his Actions, as conducted rather by the little paltry Cunning, and groveling Artifices, of a rural Attorney, than the Fine Genius, and Manly Sagacity, of a consummate Statesman. There were several Instances of *Don Carlos's* Generosity and Gratitude, in the Meridian of his Power, to Persons from whom, in the Infancy of his good Fortune,  
he

‘ he had received signal Obligations, and who, at the  
 ‘ Time of conferring those Obligations, little thought  
 ‘ they should one Day have Occasion to owe to him  
 ‘ their Lives and Liberties.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE remaining Part of this Leaf in the Manuscript is mouldered away with Age.

\* \* \* \* \*

Page II. ‘ THUS was *Don Carlos* snatch’d away,  
 ‘ in the Prime of his Years, and Fulness of his Power,  
 ‘ at once from the Ministry and the World. He was  
 ‘ succeeded in the prime Administration by another  
 ‘ of the same Name, but of superior Dignity. This  
 ‘ was *Count Carlos*. He had the same Contempt for  
 ‘ *Ferdinando* and his Creatures as his Predecessor,  
 ‘ and was equally uncorrupt as to Money. In his  
 ‘ Ministry arrived a Courier from *Cadix* with the most  
 ‘ fatal News that had ever yet afflicted *Spain*; name-  
 ‘ ly, That by a Vessel the Day before arrived at that  
 ‘ Port, the Governor had received Advice, that the  
 ‘ rich, the inestimable *Flotilla* from the SOUTH-  
 ‘ SEAS (not long before discovered) in which all  
 ‘ the Money’d People of *Spain* had embarked their  
 ‘ Fortunes, was lost, irrecoverably lost, being founde-  
 ‘ red in a furious Hurricane, some Hundred Leagues  
 ‘ from Shore, in an unfathomable Abyss of Waters.  
 ‘ Never had there such a Consternation overspread  
 ‘ the Face of the whole Kingdom. The People of  
 ‘ *Madrid*, and all the other Towns of *Spain*, ran  
 ‘ about the Streets with Eyes uplifted, Hearts distra-  
 ‘ cted, wrung Hands, and torn Hair, crying out, We  
 ‘ are lost! We are ruined, and undone! Our Wives  
 ‘ must

• must beg their Bread, our Children starve, and  
 • ourselves seek our Fortunes in Foreign Countries !  
 • The only Consolation of every Man was, that not  
 • one of his Neighbours or Acquaintance was less  
 • miserable than himself. *Ferdinando* saw the Op-  
 • portunity, and was too subtle to neglect it. This  
 • was the Time for regaining his Ground, and, li-  
 • terally speaking, fishing in troubled Waters. He  
 • publicly gave it out by his Friends, that he had an  
 • infallible Project for *weighing up the Flotilla*. He  
 • confess'd, indeed, the Place was unfathomable ;  
 • but however, that if he could not find a Bottom, he  
 • could *make One*. This he gave out with so much  
 • Assurance, that the despairing People, like Sailors  
 • in a Storm, willing to lay hold on any thing to rescue  
 • them from imminent Destruction, applauded his  
 • Measures, and confided in the Solidity of his  
 • Scheme, though they knew nothing of the Nature  
 • of it, but by Reports fondly raised among them-  
 • selves ; each Man, as he was imposed on himself,  
 • still imposing on the Credulity of his Neighbour.  
 • However, the Generality of the Nation was so  
 • prepossessed in Favour of his Measures, that *Couns*  
 • *Carlos*, for this, and other Reasons, was obliged to  
 • reinstate him in the Ministry. *Ferdinando* having  
 • thus accomplished all he aimed at, a little while  
 • after pulled off the Mask. At length the Day was  
 • come for the meeting of the *Great Council*, which  
 • his Catholick Majesty had convened on purpose to  
 • learn the Result of *Ferdinando's* Labours. The  
 • Populace now, in a different kind of Madness from  
 • that before, ran about with Acclamations of ———  
 • This Day speaks the Angelick *Ferdinando*! ———  
 • This Day shall we know the salutary Project of  
 • the

the Godlike *Ferdinando*! — And he, to convince them that their Expectations of him were well grounded, got up, as soon as the Council was sitting, and made the following Harangue.

“*YOU* must all be sensible, most illustrious Dons, that not the least Tincture of Ambition or Self-Interest, ever induced me to concern myself in the Administration of Affairs. I have one Ambition, indeed, and that is, Not to appear altogether unconcerned in Matters of the last Consequence to the Welfare of my Country. It is not now a Time to tell you, that the Flotilla from the South-Seas, with its precious Cargo, is sunk and lost. I know you expect far other Things. You expect from me the Expedient I have been long contriving for its Recovery. To convince you therefore how justly you confided in me, I come now to inform you, That after reiterated Labours, and Midnight Studies, I have at length discovered, that I know nothing of the Matter. Laurels, Triumphs, Ouations, and Civic Crowns, were the Rewards usually decreed the haughty aspiring Romans for deserving well of their Country; but Millions for himself, Millions for his Relations, Honours for his Posterity, and a Prince’s Revenues for each of his Family, are the little trifling Acknowledgments expected, for these his eminent Services to his Country, by your modest, as well as indefatigable, *Ferdinando*.

“*TIS* impossible to express the Confusion this new Disappointment flung the Nation into. Those who knew from the Beginning how impossible it was for *Ferdinando*, or, indeed, any one else, to weigh  
up



up the *Florilla*, now ridiculed their deluded Neighbours for their Credulity. But however other People might be disappointed, *Ferdinando* certainly was not; for, by this Fallacy, he accomplished his Designs. Having by several Artifices deferred the Time of his being called upon to publish his pretended Scheme, he, in the mean Time, seated himself so firmly in the Ministry, that afterwards, upon Discovery of the Illusion, *Count Carlos* did not think it advisable to take Measures for displacing him. What he would have done afterwards is uncertain, for he soon after died, to the great Satisfaction of *Ferdinando* and his Creatures, who disliked him for nothing more, than that he was always a professed Admirer of the great Abilities of the afterwards unfortunate Bishop of *Tortosa*, and wished he could have prevailed with him to come into his Measures.

NOTHING could be more agreeable to *Ferdinando* than the Situation he was now in. His Power was unrivalled, and his Measures unopposed. What Measures those were, and how he exerted that Power, will be transmitted to Posterity by more prolix Historians. For my own Part, I mention only select Instances. His Method of supplying Vacancies in the publick Posts of the Kingdom, was very extraordinary. When Persons of uncontested Merit were proposed to him to fill any Station, his usual Answer was, — That it was promised to a Half-Brother's Son, or a Fifteenth Cousin. For my own Part, I am firmly persuaded, that had there been a Vacancy in the Archbishoprick of *Seville*, and the most venerable Person in the Kingdom recommended to adorn it, it should have been a very successful

Com.

‘ Competitor, upon the sole Merit of proving myself  
 ‘ descended from *Ferdinando’s* great Grandmother’s  
 ‘ Nurse, or his Grandfather’s Postilion.

*Pages 12, 13, and 14, contain the Extract I formerly published. Page 15.* ‘ The exalted *Ferdinando* grown mad at length with Pride and Power, nothing would content him now but *Canonization* after Death. In order to procure this, he took a Resolution that surprized all *Spain*; a Resolution of acting that Part he was of all others the most unqualified for, that of the *Saint*. And to induce a Belief that he really was such, his Friends published the following Account of a Miracle wrought in his Favour, in the Neighbourhood of *Madrid*, which I give intirely upon their Credit, being somewhat scrupulous about the Belief of it myself. It should seem by this, as if he took for a Pattern, in his *sanctify’d* Capacity, that holy Man *St. Anthony of Padua*, who once preached an eloquent Sermon for the Edification of an Audience of Fishes.

‘ *SAINT Ferdinando* having observed, that all his pious Labours to reform the gross Immoralities of the Inhabitants of *Madrid*, were fruitless, and taking Notice once, more particularly, that by his Preaching he set all the People a SWEARING, he resolved to quit this Generation of Vipers, and seek the pleasing Solitude of a Neighbouring Wood. He was no sooner retired hither, when, behold a Miracle! All the Dogs of the Neighbouring Towns and Villages, of that kind called *Harlequins*, came running to him, leaping, dancing, caressing, and fawning upon him. The good Man could not forbear

“ bear bursting out into Tears of pious Joy; from  
 “ which, as soon as he had recovered himself, gently  
 “ waving his Right Hand, he awed the little Crea-  
 “ tures into Silence and Order, who immediately,  
 “ with Tails composed, and Ears erected, listned to  
 “ what St. Ferdinando spake to them, which was as  
 “ follows.

“ *T H E* divine Goodness, my dearly beloved Har-  
 “ lequins, is not more conspicuous in any one Species  
 “ of Creatures than in you. Man, vain Man, with  
 “ all his boasted Superiority of Reason, were he re-  
 “ moved from that Sphere of Action, wherein his own  
 “ Species is conversant, how dully, how insipidly,  
 “ would he behave? Whilst any of you, when, by the  
 “ Friendly Assistance of some propitious Saint, you have  
 “ been transformed to Human, with how surprizing a  
 “ Dexterity have you not always acted your Parts,  
 “ most admirable Harlequins!

“ *M Y* following little Discourse to you shall be di-  
 “ vided into Two Heads. The first shall regard those  
 “ Excellencies that are peculiarly Yours, under your  
 “ Original Form of Dogs, in Opposition to Mankind.  
 “ And herein I shall observe to you, That assuming Man;  
 “ fond of Panegyrics on Himself, proudly boasts, That  
 “ he has an erect Countenance and looks upwards. But  
 “ though we allow it to be true, what advantageous  
 “ Inference can he draw from hence? What Benefits  
 “ accrue to Him from this Situation of his Physiogn-  
 “ my? Did ever any Man stumble over a Star, or  
 “ break his Skins against the Moon? Did ever any  
 “ one sprain his Foot against a Planet, or tumble into  
 “ a Ditch in the Milky Way? How much happier

" therefore are you; who having your Countenances  
 " prone to Earth, foresee, and consequently avoid, those  
 " Ills, that continually assail Man? Err my him not  
 " then an Imaginary Advantage, that, far from being  
 " useful to Him, is productive of numberless Misfor-  
 " tunes.

" THE Exquifiteness of your Olfactory Nerves  
 " Man himself will not dispute with you. Did ever  
 " any of human Race pretend to scent a B—— like  
 " you? Ye dear inimitable Creatures, could I ever have  
 " excommunicated the Bishop of Tortosa without you  
 " had deposed Heresy against him? Without your  
 " Assistance, how would He have triumphed over my  
 " impotent Fulminations? This important Conquest I  
 " must for ever own as the Fruits of your good Policy,  
 " your Vigilance, your Delicacy of Conduct, most  
 " faithful Harlequins.

" FIDELITY and Gratitude are Virtues that  
 " so eminently adorn all the Actions of your Lives, that  
 " Man justly regards a Dog as the Emblem of both,  
 " and is proud of being compared to him for either. If  
 " it would not be a kind of Injury to the rest, I would  
 " instance in one of you, and that is in Harlequin  
 " EBONY. 'Tis well known how a little while ago,  
 " I extended a charitable Hand to feed him, and ever  
 " since the little sportive Rogue has continually danced  
 " round me with a Hooked Stick in one Paw, obsequi-  
 " ous to my Whistle, and attentive to my Nod.

" I COME now, in the second Place, my beloved  
 " Harlequins, to consider You in your other Capacity;  
 " that is, when by the propitious Aid of some friendly  
 " Saint

" *Saint you are transformed to Haman. And under*  
 " *this Head I might again, without any Impropriety,*  
 " *mention to You Harlequin E BONY, for his*  
 " *Transformation having been imperfect, 'tis impossi-*  
 " *ble to say, whether he is most Man or most Harlequin,*  
 " *being generally looked upon as half one, and half*  
 " *t'other. But admitting that, let me observe to you,*  
 " *with what distinguished Reputation and Applause*  
 " *you acquit yourselves in the most important Sit-*  
 " *tions of Human Life. How volubly do great Num-*  
 " *bers of you open in great Assemblies, most eloquent*  
 " *Harlequins? How piously do many of you bark in*  
 " *the Conventions of the Devout, most venerable Har-*  
 " *lequins? With what a Grace does Harlequin CACO-*  
 " *FOGO extend the Truncheon? With what Exact-*  
 " *ness does Harlequin SIMONI count the Quarterly*  
 " *Pistoles? Nor can I help revering one happy Singu-*  
 " *larity in you, and that is, That whatever human*  
 " *Appearance you put on, you still retain every*  
 " *truly canine Quality.*

" *I SHALL conclude all with a fervent Prayer,*  
 " *That a good Saint may never want a good Har-*  
 " *lequin.*

" *St. FERDINANDO having finished his*  
 " *Sermon, made a Signal to his Audience to withdraw,*  
 " *who, after Tokens of the most profound Submission*  
 " *and Reverence, ran barking away, each to his re-*  
 " *spective Home.*

" *MY Spanish Author concludes this Story with re-*  
 " *marking, that if Ferdinando really was a Saint, He*  
 " *differed extremely from all the Saints that ever pre-*

ceded Him in one Respect; for They, with whatever precious Offerings their Relicks might be honoured after Death, yet in their Life-times voluntarily embraced all the Miseries of an indigent and penurious Life. *St. Ferdinando*, on the contrary, was always unpropitious to his Votaries, without incessant *Gifts* made to him in his Life-time; intirely regardless whether the People, after his Decease, should offer to his Shrine Gold and Silver, or Stones and Brick-bats.





# THE TRUE BRITON.

N U M B. LVI.

— *Equitis quoque jam migravit ab aure voluptas  
Omnis, ad incertos oculos, & gaudia vana.* HOR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13. 1723.

To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



THINK, I may, justly enough, apply to the *Stage*, in general, what Mr. *Bays*, in the *Rehearsal*, is made to say of his *Play*: The Theatre is a Kind of Political *Touchstone*; for nothing sooner discovers a *sound* or *sickly* State, than the *Taste* of its People at the Theatrical Assemblies; where no previous Arts of Preparation have been us'd, but the Audiences are left free to their own natural Impressions.

I HAVE been led into this Remark, by the cold and unkind Reception, which the new Tragedy of *Henry the Fifth* has met with, in its Acting; and which appears, now the Play is publish'd, so shamefully disproportion'd to what ought to have been expected, that one wou'd imagine, nothing less than a

general Depravity, both of Morals and Reason, cou'd have render'd it possible. The very *Subject* of this Play gave it no weak Pretence to the Favour of all brave *Englishmen*: But the *Moral* it was written for, was so Generous, and Reasonable, that it ought to have made its Interest the Care of *Both Parties*.

*Thus have our Arms, triumphant, purchas'd Fame,  
And Warlike England boasts a dreadful Name!  
Oh! that the bright Example might inspire,  
And teach my Country not to waste her Fire!  
But, spurning Faction, and domestick Hate,  
Bend all her Vigour to advance her State.*

THE great and amiable Figure, which King Henry makes, throughout this Tragedy, as a *Monarch*, a *Statesman*, a *Soldier*, and a *Lover*, ought, no doubt, to have endear'd Him, in a very particular manner, to a *British* Audience; and the following Reflection of that Merciful and Noble Prince, on the first Intelligence of a *Plot* against his *Life*, deserves both Admiration and Applause.

*Treason! — 'Tis impossible!  
Whom has my short Reign wrong'd? — What want a  
People,  
Whom Wealth and Plenty smile upon at Home,  
And whom, Abroad, the Fame of Arms makes dreadful!  
What wou'd Complaint have more? — Ill-judging Vulgar!  
Were it not glorious to make Millions happy,  
Who, that had Sense of Bliss, wou'd be a King?  
The untrusty Shepherd, stretch'd, beneath the Hawthorn,  
His Careless Lambs thrown out, in warren Ease,  
With*



*With thoughtless Gaze, perusing the arch'd Heavens,  
And idly whistling, while his Sheep feed round him;  
Enjoys a sweeter Shade, than That of Canopies,  
Hemm'd in with Cares, and shook by Storms of Treason!*

BUT, when the Chief Agent of this Treason is deliver'd into his Hands, and proves to be his late favourite *Mistress*, disguis'd like a *Boy*, the more securely to compass the Death of her Sovereign! what Prince, but so Magnanimous and Heroick a one as *Henry*, wou'd have drawn an Occasion, from so bloody a Purpose, to *punish* her with *Pardon*! to melt her Soul with his *Tenderness*! — Instead of resenting her Insults, with the Frowns of provok'd Majesty, he considers his *own* Guilt, as a Softening of *hers*, and confesses, after a short Pause for Recollection of his Thoughts,

*'Tis true, fair Murderer! I have greatly wrong'd thee:  
And yet, not I, but what I once was, wrong'd thee!  
'Tis a sad Theme! and Reason trembles at it, &c.*

IMAGINE a young Lady, of high Birth, blooming Beauty, powerfully Allied! of a violent and revengeful Spirit! urg'd and influenc'd by a Faction; remembering herself undone, and imagining, she is not *only* forsaken, but *scorn'd*, and *hated*, by the Man for whom she had sacrific'd both her Quiet and her Honour! — What *Power of Persuasion* must there be in Words and Sentiments adapted to a Scene, where this ruin'd and inrag'd Revenger (not restor'd to the faintest *Hope*, but, on the contrary, *convinc'd* that she is to be *abandon'd for ever*) is, notwithstanding, pleas'd, and satisfy'd, and gradually charm'd

into a Return of her Passion, till it produces a Discovery of her Accomplices in the Treason ; and her Death, by her own Hands, as an Atonement for her Purpose!

- WHAT a Torrent of Applause must have distinguished such a Scene, in any Country where the Audiences are accusom'd to be *awake*, and have a Relish of *Sentiments*, or a Feeling of *Humanity* ! and to what must we impute it, that the Sex, *most concerned* in this Incident of the Play, seem'd so little to be *touch'd* by it ! while, as if they join'd in a Confederacy (to lessen their own Value) they flock with Ecstasy, to support some Tragedies and Comedies where their Modesty is shock'd, their Tenderness insulted, and their Last Favours rewarded with Insolence and Ingratitude !

ONE would scarce think it possible, that the High and Publick Virtues express'd in the following Speech, could be heard (from the Mouth of the *justest Actor* in the World) without *Praise* ! without *Notice* !

*Still regard Thee with the same Desires !  
Gaze with the same transporting Pleasure on Thee,  
As when our bounding Souls first flew together,  
And mingled Raptures, in consenting Softness !  
But Kings must have no Wishes for Themselves,  
We are our People's Properties. — Our Cares  
Must rise above our Passions ! — The Publick Eye  
Shou'd mark no Fault on Monarchs : — 'tis contagious !  
Else, I, to Death had borne the dear Delight ;  
And, bless'd in mutual Transport, still liv'd Thine,*

WHAT

WHAT *Englishman*, not as tasteless as the Bench he was sitting on, cou'd listen to that Description of *Mercy*, which I am about to insert, and not thankfully remember his own immediate Happiness, who lives in the glorious Reign of a Prince, so noted for his *Clemency*, that it always stands out, obvious, in the List of his Royal Attributes!

*Oh! do not, thus, with Cruelty's keen Breath,  
Blow off, and scatter, the sweet Dew of Mercy!  
When, from the Heaven of Power, that soft Rain falls,  
The thriving State looks fresh; Dominion prospers,  
And parch'd Rebellion shuts her drowsy Gaps;  
Mercy is the becoming Smile of Justice:  
This makes her lovely, as her Rigour dreadful!  
Either, alone, defective: But when join'd,  
Like Clay and Water, in the Potter's Hand,  
They mingle Influence; and, together, rise  
In Forms, which neither, sep'rate, cou'd bestow.*

BUT I had much ado, I must confess, to keep myself from laughing out, when the King's *Prime Minister*, in the Play, the chief Manager of his *Treasury*! a *Favourite*! and a *Traitor*! took upon him to counsel *Cruelty*, for the *Benefit* of the *Government*! Hear the Wretch, and ask yourselves, If it be possible to match him?

— *Mercy is a Topick,  
Copious and fair! — But Men, who counsel Monarchs,  
Must smile at simple Nature's moral Dreams,  
And, skill'd in manly Rigour, cast off Pity:  
Pity! that Waster of a Prince's Safety!*

*What!*

*What! — Shall a Villain Hind defy his King,  
 Spurn at his Laws, and then cry — Help me, Mercy!  
 I wou'd have us'd my Sovereign like a Slave,  
 And, therefore, must have Mercy! — Out upon't!  
 'Tis the Priest's Rattle! — Heaven's ambrosial Diet!  
 Too thin a Food for Mortals! — Men wou'd Starve on't*

THO' I laugh'd inwardly and despis'd him, yet I felt my Indignation glow against him at every Word he spok'd, and cou'd never bear the Sight of this Traitor Treasurer with Patience, till they led him out to be *Executed*; and yet, even then too, the Audience, methought, ate as much in the *Spleen*, as if *They* had been condemn'd to be hang'd with him.

I HAVE seen this Play *acted*: — I have read it over and over, and still, with fresh Amazement at the Faintness it was received with! It seems, the Author *made no Interest* (as the Phrase goes) That is to say, was so Civil to the Ladies and Gentlemen, his Cotemporaries, as to suppose they were qualify'd to *hear* and *see* for *themselves*; and had Courage to *avow* their Approbation of what pleas'd 'em, without humbly waiting for the Opinion of their *Bell-Weathers*, that so they might be sure to move on with the Flock, and wear their Understandings in the Dress *most in Fashion*.

I HAVE heard it asserted, that what is fine in this Play, is *Shakespear's*; Though the Men, who object this, can never have made that Comparison, which should have gone before their Censure, yet, I am apt to believe, that in an Age, when People are so given to *plain Nature*, the *Writer* of this Play would

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would have succeeded a good deal better, if, instead of supposing his King *Henry* to love like a Gentleman, he had push'd him bluntly upon his *Business*; as *Shakespeare* had done before him, in an extraordinary Scene of Gallantry, which I shall give you, as a Specimen of the Justice of that Assertion above-mention'd: And let it be judg'd by the fair Representative of Princess *Katherine*, which of the *Two Harry's* a Modern Lady would be woo'd by? I flatter myself, that no Exception will be taken against the Judge I have submitted it to; for every-body must allow, that she understands the nicest Difference betwixt one Thing and Another.

New *Harry* to the Princess.

*From Honour's Lessons, I have learnt to know,  
That He whose Life You sav'd, should live for You:  
I thought, when, in your Father's Court, I first  
Fed my devouring Eye with Your Perfection,  
I thought — fond Novice! and unlearn'd in Love!  
I then, felt Passion, which could ne'er be heighten'd:  
But now, inflam'd by rising Admiration,  
As I come nearer your amazing Excellence,  
Dazled with Lustre, I adore your Virtue,  
Feel your whole Influence, and am lost in Love.*

Old *Harry* to the Princess:

King. *Do you like me, Kate?*  
Kate. *Pardonnez-moy, I cannot tell, what is like me.*  
King. *Give me your Answer, — I faith, do: —  
and so clap Hands, and a Bargain: How say you,  
Lady?*

Kate. *Save*

Kate. *Save your Honour, me understand well.*

King. *Marry, if you should put me to dance, or to make Verses, for your sake, Kate, why you undid me. For the one, I have neither Words nor Measure; and for the other, I have no Strength in Measure, yet a reasonable Measure in Strength. — If I could win a Lady at Leap-frog, or by vaulting into my Saddle, with my Armour on my Back, under the Correction of Bragging be it spoken, I should quickly leap into a Wife; or, if I might buffet for my Love, or bound my Horse for her Favours, I could lay on like a Butcher, and sit like a Jack-an-apes, never off: But, before God, Kate, I can't look green, nor gasp out my Eloquence; nor I have no Cunning in Protestation: If thou canst leave a Fellow of this Temper, Kate, let thy Eye be thy Cook; Love me, and take me. — If not — to say, that I shall die, is true; — but for thy Love, by the Lord, No. — But, Kate, dost thou understand thus much English? Canst thou love me?*

Kate. *I cannot tell.*

King. *Can any of your Neighbours tell, Kate? Come, I know thou lovest me: And if ever thou beest mine, I get thee with Scambling, and thou must therefore, needs prove a good Soldier-breeder. — Shall not thou and I, between St. Dennis, and St. George, compound a Boy, half French, half English, that shall go to Constantinople, and take the Turk by the Beard? Shall we not? What say'st Thou, my fair Flower de Luce?*

Kate. *I do not know dat.*

— King. *No, 'tis hereafter, to know; but now to promise; do but You promise, Kate, you will endeavour for*

*for your French Part of such a Boy; and, for my English Moiety, take the Word of a King, and a Batchelor — &c. — &c.*

MY Readers, I suppose, by this Time, have enough of *Kate* and her Lover: But He whose Appetite is strong enough, may find more, in Abundance, if he turns to the Original, in *Shakespeare*! The Flights of that prodigious Genius were, unsteady, like the *Swallow's*. He is sometimes as high as Heaven, and our Eyes ake with viewing Him! But he falls, at once, to the Ground, and skims along the *Ditches*, 'till we lose him in Dirt and Brambles.

I WILL end with this Remark, That I am glad I shall be past *Blushing* — when our Posterity, inquiring an Age or two hence, what *Dramatick* Performances were *their* Favourites who had no Taste for *Henry the Fifth*? — shall be answer'd with a Smile — *The Exploits of Harlequin*! — And *The Devil and Doctor Faustus*!





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

N U M B. LVII.

— *Dulce & Decorum est*  
*Pro Patria Mori.* —

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16. 1723.

To the TRUE BRITON.

SIR,



It is the First and Prime Obligation of Men to pay a due Regard to the *Divine Being*: The Second lays us under Inviolable Engagements to the Country in which we live. Whatever other Tye in Nature we may form to ourselves, we are never to forget, that it is to be made in Subordination to the *Love* of our *Country*. There is not any Thing which the Ancients have more warmly recommended throughout all their Writings; not any Thing, which the Great Men of the most Heroic Ages have more strongly confirmed by their Example. We cannot so much as read any considerable Works of the *Philosophers*, of the *Ora-*



*sons*, and the *Poets* of those Times, without being convinced, that they have, with a kind of glorious Emulation, exerted all their Talents, put all their Faculties to the Stretch, in order to give us an Idea of this Love due to our Country, superior to all other Ideas, that we can be possibly capable of forming upon it. But one cannot open a *History* of theirs, without being obliged to confess, that the *Heroes* of those Days far out-stripped the *Writers*, and that *these* pushed their *Actions* to a greater Degree of Glory, than *these* could even carry their *Ideas*.

*CODRUS* the King of *Athens*, just upon the Point of giving the *Dorians* Battle, consulted the Oracle, and was given to understand, That if himself were slain, his Army should be infallibly triumphant. This being the then known Situation of Affairs, his Subjects out of Love, and his Enemies out of Fear, made it equally their whole Care, their whole Business, to secure the Preservation of so important a Life. But He made it his Care to deceive the united Vigilance of both the contending Armies: Content, nay, *pleased* to dye, provided only that a Victory to his Country might be the Price of his Royal Life, he traverses in Disguise the interjacent Field, and passes into the Camp of the Enemy: He there took his Opportunity of quarrelling with a Soldier, gets himself killed, and by that Generous and Gallant Death, laid the most solid Foundation for the Glory and the Grandeur of *Athens*.

*CURTIUS* did not demonstrate a Lower Degree of Love for *Rome*. A violent Earthquake happened in the Heart of that great City, and yawning wide, threatened

threatened as if it would swallow it up in a dreadful Gulph. A malignant and pestiferous Vapour, that issued from it, spread all around a Mortal Consternation, and all the People, expecting every Minute to be their last, were struck with an universal Pannick. Immediately they run and consult the Oracle, the usual Recourse made amidst such Calamities, by that superstitious People. The Oracle declares, That they must not expect to see the Gulph close up, 'till they could meet with a *Roman*, that had sufficient Bravery and Resolution to plunge himself Headlong into the Midst of it. *Curtius* no sooner got hold of the Intelligence, but he immediately mounted his Horse, and leap'd, upon full speed, into that frightful Abyss, and by the Loss of his Life, he preserved the Lives of all his Fellow Citizens, and acquired to himself one that will be Immortal in the Records of Fame.

WE may very reasonably judge, that Persons, who so voluntarily sacrifice themselves to the Idea which they have of procuring Happiness to their Country by it, can love nothing in Preference to that Country. Every other Affection lies bush'd, and every Emotion is dead within them, when the Love of their Country calls for their Attention. No *private Friendships* can hold any Competition there; Even *Paternal Love* itself yields, where *Patriotism* is put in the Balance with it.

• THUS *BRUTUS*, after he had expelled the *Tarquins*, and restored the *Roman* Commonwealth to its first Form of Government, having discover'd a Conspiracy framed to recall them, He caused, in *Quality*

lity of Consul, Proceedings to be carry'd on against the Conspirators, and sentenced them all to dye. He had no more than Two Sons, and those he loved with great Tenderness; for they were all the Hopes of his Family. He found them to be engaged and concerned in the Conspiracy; and upon that, grown as deaf to the Cries of *Nature*, as he was inexorable to the Prayers of the *Whole Body* of the *People*, who made Addresses for their Pardon, he sacrific'd them the very first to the Publick Safety, and by their exemplary Punishment, kept those within the Bounds of Duty, whom the Impunity of his Sons might have otherwise corrupted.

IF one was to hear the detestable Jest, that some self-interested Ministers have made of such Heroic Acts as these, one would think, that they thought History to be no better than Romance and Fiction, and that such a Love to one's Country was a Madness not fit to be recorded by *grave Historians*, approved by *solid Philosophers*, or extolled by *sublime Orators* and *Poets*, unless it was Politically done to raise new Tools and Instruments of the same Nature for their own selfish Views.

NOW, one that is a strict Follower of *Matchiavel*; would not abate you an odd Thousand Pounds out of what we call in our '*Change-Alley* Phraze, *Three* or *Four Plumbs*, if it was sure to save his Country from otherwise unavoidable Ruin; Nay, the Man that should make such a Proposition to him, would run the Risque of being counted a Fellow quite out of his Series.

I WOULD willingly do all I could, to keep the Love of our Country alive and intire in the Breasts of all *Englishmen*; And I hope that a general *Tepidity* and *Lukewarmness* in that great Duty will never be our Case.

FOR this End, I shall shew, how a New Author, of a Neighbouring Nation, has gloried in reciting an Instance of the Love that his Fellow-Subjects bear to their Country; and I hope it will excite in us a worthy Emulation to exceed them in so important a Point of Glory.

THIS Author is a *Frenchman*, and after having spoke of the Patriots of *Antiquity*, as I have done above, he then proceeds on to this Effect, and gives us Examples of the Bravery of his own Countrymen.

BUT what need we search among Foreigners for Examples of the Love due to our Country! Have we not those in *France*, that, if they were but as well related, would not be less admired? We have, says he, a great Number of them; Among many that I could produce, there is one, that, according to my Taste, cannot be sufficiently celebrated. After the Death of *Charles le Bel*, which happened in the Year 1322, the Crown devolved to *Philip de Valois*, who was nearest of Blood, in the Male-Line.

EDWARD the Third of *England*, claim'd the Succession as the next Heir Male in Being, tho' descended from a Woman: *Philip de Valois*, says he,  
on

on the contrary, maintained; that the *Salick Law* excluding the Women, excluded necessarily their Descendants. In fine, the Dispute (*which my Author describes with great Dexterity, as it was carried on in all its Gradations*) grew hot, and ended in a Publick Breach. *Edward* enters *France* with a powerful Army: He lay before *Calais*, which refused to acknowledge him. He reduced the Town to that Extremity, that it was going to be taken by Assault. The Inhabitants desire to Capitulate: He refuses to hear them, but only upon one Condition; and That he allow'd them but Three Hours to consider upon. This Condition was, That they should deliver him up Six of the principal Inhabitants in their Shirts with Cords about their Necks, to be made immediate Sacrifices to his Vengeance. He thought by so severe an Example to intimidate other Towns, and that he might reasonably use those with such Rigour, whom he counted to be his Subjects in Rebellion against him.

THE Proposal put all the Town in a Consternation: Six Inhabitants immediately offered themselves as the Sacrifices; and no Friends, no Relations could dissuade them. In fine, they obtain'd their Desire; and were by *Edward* ordered for Execution; But the Queen-Consort, just in Time, procured the Pardon of those Gallant Men. These Men, *says my Author*, so worthy of Immortality, deserve to be mentioned with Honour, and ought never to be forgotten. Their Names were *Eustache de St. Pierre* (he was the first that offer'd himself) *John D'Aite*, *James* and *Peter Wisant*. The

• Names of the other Two have escaped the Exactest  
• Historians.

THE Reader here sees, with what Love and Affection this *French* Author celebrates his *Predecessor-Countrymen*; and he is himself grown a celebrated Author among his *Cotemporary-Countrymen* for that very Reason.

WHAT Numbers of greater and more Heroic Examples could we *Englishmen* produce? How much more beautifully could we describe them? And how much oftner should we attempt it, if we were not afraid of being coldly received?

*HARRY the Fifth* went upon the same Design as *EDWARD the Third*, in to *France*, and made it his Conquest; and yet when that Hero was lately celebrated on our Stage, with all the Beauties and Advantages of Language, that could be suitable to adorn so great a Character, how little was the Audience awaken'd with the Glory of it? How coldly was that Excellent Piece of Dramatic Poetry received?

FOR my Part, I am so great a Lover of the Country in which I am proud of the Honour to have been born, that it is not without real Grief, I behold an Infinity of Heroic Actions done by *Britons*, that lie buried in Oblivion, merely for Want of being recorded in Noble Works that are capable of perpetuating their Fame. But it is enough to excite one's Indignation, to see them pass'd unheeded by, even when an artful Hand presents them to our View in the Fulness of their Lustre and Glory.

ME.

METHINKS, the Heroes of the present Age should, above all Things, consider, how mightily it concerns them to protect and patronize Men of Letters, by whom they must one Day hope to have their own Memories rendered Eternal.

WE find enow that are ready enough to celebrate the *Greek* and *Roman* Patriots; but we do not find so many, who are so ready to immortalize the Patriots and the Heroes of *England*. Not to encourage fine Writers to do it oftner, is a shameful Omission; but to discountenance those who perform it in the most Elegant Manner, shews a violent Depravity of our Manners, and a sensible Decay of Publick Spirit, and of that Love which every *True Briton* ought to bear to his *Country*.

THE *French* admire and encourage their Authors who extol their Princes; and shall we who have ever excelled them in Bravery, be excelled by them in Encouraging those Arts, that are like to cultivate in Ourselves and our Posterity that Virtue, which has made us justly boast of the Superiority of our Arms?

*I am, S I R, Your Humble Servant,*

PUBLICOLA.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LVIII.

*Ampliat ætatis spatium sibi vir bonus, hoc est  
Vivere bis, vita posse priore frui.* MART.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20. 1723.

To the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



LIVING in an Age when the Character of a *Trimmer* wants more than the great Authority of its Penman to support it; when Distinctions are doubled, and *Whigs* distinguish'd by *New* and *Old*, and *Tories* by *Hanoverian* and *High-Church*; I thought I could not better divert myself, than by endeavouring to find out and pourtray a Person, that may be neither *New Whig* or *Old Whig*, *Hanoverian* or *High-Church Tory*; no, nor even a *Trimmer*; and yet preferable to all.

I AM sufficiently sensible of the Impossibility of Abolishing these invidious Distinctions at this Time of Day; The Opportunity was slippt, when rejected  
at



at a late very remarkable Period of Time; tho' that *Dutch-Leaven* has shewn itself, like all the rest, calculated purely for their own *Matchiavellian* Glory.

BUT *Politicks* apart. Since no Party will allow but in itself it comprizes, if it does not monopolize, the *Honest Man*, That is the Title under which I will delineate my Hero; and if I can play the Part of a good Painter, let him that the Picture most resembles, assume to himself the Honour of having sat for the Face.

OUR *Honest Man*, then, primarily declares himself an Enemy to the distinguishing *Name* of all Parties whatsoever, rightly concluding, that as a Soldier enlisted must follow his Leader at the Hazard of his Life, such a Person so enter'd, must, in every Respect, make his Conscience subservient to his Ambition and the Humour of his Patron.

BUT our *Honest Man*, having from much Reading and mature Deliberation, collected, That no Nation or People were ever yet found without some *Vestigia*'s of Religion, he set himself to make his; and, according to the Best of his Judgment, fix'd upon One that tells him, in very plain Terms, That Conscience is by no means to be prostituted to *Avarice*, *Ambition*, or any of the *Anti-Cardinal* Virtues.

AND yet, though our *Honest Man* declares himself no Party-Man, he is of Opinion, there may be an *Honest Man* of any or all Parties. Judgment does not always wear the *Leading-Strings* of Interest; nor are

Mens Minds, any more than their Faces, under the *same Regularity of Judgment or Feature.*

FIRST, then, Our *Honest Man* loves his *Prince* as he ought; and (as far as they act consistently with His and the Publick Interest) his *Ministers*. But as he cannot be persuaded to have such an unaccountable Attachment to the One, as to give a Sanction to every *Foible* of the Other, so he cannot allow, that every *Foible* shall have a Sanction that must necessarily bring a Disparagement along with it. He knows very well, *That the King can do no Wrong*: But neither *Law* nor *History* ever told him, That any Subject, though a Favourite, had any Right to claim an *equal Privilege* from that *Royal Maxim*.

YET our *Honest Man*, from a Sense of his *own*, can look with a compassionate Eye on the *Failings* of *Others*. Even those Ministers, who, *prima facie*, appear to have acted on Principles inconsistent with the Safety and Interest of his Country, shall stand uncondemn'd 'till the Ballance of Sedate Reason has drawn their *Mene Tekel*.

FOR our *Honest Man* is not hasty to judge, and therefore, takes Care; above all Things, when he does judge, not to judge rashly. And yet, though he is not so conversant in the *Logick* of the *Schools*, as to be able to prove *Black, White*, he can, from Facts, deduce Consequences which shall be as demonstrably clear as the clearest of the Problems of *Euclid*.

NOR

NOR is our *Honest Man* so inconstant in Court-Affairs, as to *seek or refuse* a *Post* there. Well knowing, that as too violent an Application may call in Question his Integrity, so a too obstinate Rejection may prove Criminal, in putting him out of a Capacity of doing, what is most at his Heart, a *Timely Service* to his Country.

BUT if our *Honest Man*, by a happy Mistake, has got the Station he sought not, now he is there, he cannot believe himself oblig'd to follow implicitly the Dictates of whoever was instrumental in his being plac'd there. As he imbrac'd the Opportunity of doing true Service to his Country in accepting that, though, with *Currius*, he could leap the expanded Gulph, in its real Service, he cannot imagine, that immersing Neck-high in Ordure for the Pleasure of his Benefactors exclusively, can ever be requir'd at his Hands.

OR, if our *Honest Man*, from a too malevolent Conjunction of *Court-Planets*, as has been too common, meets with nothing but Slight and Disregard; yet will he omit no favourable Opportunity of doing his utmost Duty to his Country, as a *private Elector* or *Publick Representative*.

IF the latter, our *Honest Man*, as soon as enter'd into the Chapel of *St. Stephen*, maturely weighs the *Reasons* for which he was call'd there, the *Persons* that call'd him, and the *Duty* incumbent upon him in his Call. He knows, he sits not there for *himself*,  
but

but his *Country* and *Countrymen*; and if he Divide<sup>s</sup> in any Question, is sure to go on that Side that in the Debate carry'd, in his Opinion, the greatest Demonstration. He wants not to be resolv'd of Doubts *without Doors*, having sufficiently inform'd himself *within* of every Thing that might inforce Conviction.

AS little does our *Honest Man* approve of that forever-to-be exploded Method in *Committees of Election*, of setting up *Minority* against *apparent Majority*. He has too near a Concern for his poor Country, to consider, without Horror, the Consequence of such Diabolical Partialities. *Privilege, Property* and *Constitution*, under such a Dispensation, are the mere *Morsum Caput* of *Speech*. And our *Honest Man* would think it less Criminal to let Forty creep in, tho' all different in Opinion to him, on a fair and equitable Hearing, than prostitute his Conscience to the Consent of a much more unjustifiable Exclusion.

OR, if our *Honest Man*, wisely considering the Profuseness of Expence in the *Modern Way of Elections*, and the Usage of such as are sure to bid against him (out of a Regard to his Family) decline that too, too chargeable Post of Honour; and yet by his Estate and Figure is too considerable in the County wherein he lives, to be left out of the *Commission of the Peace*, without any palpable Breach of Modesty and Good Manners; In that Station, he discharges his Duty with *Spirit, Freedom* and *Integrity*. In Regard to his Oath, he flights not the minutest Matters that come before him, and, consequently, is very far from neglecting those of more arduous Weight. He takes care

to divest himself of every Bias to any thing but Virtue; then there is no Danger of his being prevail'd on to join with Sir John or Sir Harry, in running down an Honest Neighbour, because they are old Fox-Hunters. If he has not that *Zaaf without Knowledge* to improve a *Merry-meeting* into a *Riot*; he has, what is much more preferable, an extensive Fund of *Charity* and *Good Nature*, which renders him at all Times ready and zealous of an unhappy *Riot* to make a *Merry-Meeting*. *Peace and Good Neighbourhood* is his daily Toast, and all around him have the Pleasure to experience his *Practice* to be the Product of that noble *Theory*. He knows the Law in Intention is made for the Preservation of every *Individual* of the *Community*, and therefore, however he may be out-voted, he can never be over-aw'd to vote on the Side of any Hard-hearted Bigot: He himself being a Bigot to nothing but the *Love of his Country*.

OR, is our *Honest Man* of a yet inferior Degree, and only an *Elector* of such as are or ought to be Chosen Representatives of himself: He will not permit either *Interest*, *Avarice*, no, nor even *Necessity*, to interfere in the Discharge of his Duty. He wisely considers, that he votes for *Posterity* as well as for *himself*; and that as his Parents, inlisted under the Banner of *True Old English* Virtue, took very particular Care, as far as their Power allow'd, to leave him in full Possession of *Right* and *Property*, so will he be palpably guilty of the highest Disobedience and Unworthiness, if he deviate from an equal Care of leaving 'em intire to his Children. This Consideration, and *this* alone, will have an Influence upon his *Interest*. For Bribes, how-

ever  
ever

ever profusely or authoritatively distributed, shall never reconcile him to the Man, who one Session, with a labouring Hand promoted a certain Bill, and the very next, or soon after, evinc'd, that he could make use of *both* to endeavour to destroy, by a servile Compliance, the noble Effence of that very Act which had before pass'd so much for the Security and Safety of his beloved Country.

*I am, S I R,*

*Your Humble Servant,*

C. D.



T H E



THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LIX.

*Scrutamur rimis, evertimus omne profundum,  
Quæritur argenti semen, nunc aurea vena. VIRG.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23. 1723.



HERE is something foodd and whimsical in the following Letter, that we shall, for the Amusement of our Readers, insert it in this Paper, and shall be glad to receive the Sequel in the History of the *Island of Phœnixes*, which we cannot but believe must be very entertaining to the Publick.

To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.

SIR,

WHETHER I have read *Galileus* or *Gratian*, is nothing to the Purpose. Manners, or the Manner of Rising at Court, is not the Matter in Question. Trade is my Topick, and to promote Trade the commendable Employ of every

every TRUE BRITON. In order to which, I intend to lay before my Industrious Countrymen Rules calculated for the Meridian of St. —, as plain and perfect as any in *Exchange Alley*. As Sir *Isaac* says, 'Tis my *Coup d'Essay*, which however I persuade myself may evince to the World, that on Leisure and Occasion, I am capable of maintaining the Validity of my Tenets by the Laws of *Experience* and *Example*. To imagine, that a Man must necessarily be a *Courtier*, to know the Court, is little less than to assert, that a Man must be a *Jesuite* before *Probation*. But Preface apart: I proceed to Business.

HOWEVER, in a short Preliminary Address to my Countrymen, I must introduce my Undertaking thus, in the behalf of a *Broker*, a true *Israelite*; a Nonpareil in the Mystery of *Stock-jobbing*.

*ALL who are ambitious of Posts of Honour, Places of Profit, or Reversions of any, or all Sorts, may, apply to me at the Sign of the Cat and the Fiddle; near Pickadilly, where, if there is any Honour in Courtiers, it shall go hard but your Expectations shall be answer'd by*

ISRAEL GOMEZ:

YOU see he does not, like your common Empiricks, swell up in mighty Boasts, tho' perhaps he is the first of his travelling Countrymen that ever inclin'd to Modesty. Yet, without Vanity, let me speak it, he  
has



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has, in a great measure, bespoke his Abilities in the Choice of his Sign. A *Fiddle* is a necessary Ingredient to the making a *Cat dance*, and that a *Cat* will dance to a *Fiddle*, *Probatum est*. This is a sort of Logick I learnt in the *Lobby*: For if B can prove A, and C can prove B, and so on, by an equal *Climax* of Arguments, I shall not fear to demonstrate, That a *Cat*, of whatever *Genus*, has, will, and ever will *dance to a Fiddle*.

NOW as to my Rules:

AND the *First* is; On all and every Occasion, make your Application to my *Broker*. For I must tell you very frankly, It is by no means consistent with his, mine, or your own Interest, to have *Two Shops* for *One Commodity*. I have known him some Time; ever since the Mortality of the Immortal Queen *ANNE*, of Pious Memory, and I know it is with no small Pains and Industry that he is arriv'd to the Pitch of Interest he pretends to. He made his advanc'd Steps by two Barons of foreign Extraction; but Reasons of State having deem'd it invincibly necessary to bury them alive, he found it by no means out of his way to make a Tour as far as *Constantinople*, to put a better Face upon his Pretensions at a *Christian Court*.

BUT to see the Misfortunes that attend even in defatigable Industry! Those Letters of Credence which he had obtain'd of the *true Mussulmen* in his Favour, were of too short a Duration to compensate for a Tythe of the Charge and Trouble he had been at in procuring 'em.

THIS

THIS unfortunate Disappointment put my poor *Israelite* on New Attempts and New Discoveries, in order to affix an Interest that might affix his Fortune. But how he arriv'd at the *Island of Phoenixes*, and by the Help of K. and S. fell into the present most advantageous Way of transmuting Brass into Gold, shall be the Subject of some future Opportunity. So begging Pardon for this Digression, I proceed to the Rules I first promis'd, and first began.

*Secondly*, Therefore, if according to the Advertisment of my *Israelite*, it be a *Post of Honour* you aspire to, you have nothing to do but to provide the *Quantum*, and All is safe; provided you take care not to part with it *before All is over*.

*Thirdly*, IF, Citizen-like, you sagaciously aim at some *Honour*, but more *Profit*, get a Certificate under proper Hands, that you have done, will do, and are capable of doing the most cleanly Work, and if your Ambition extends no higher than a C——r of the C——ms, I dare promise for my *Israelite*, you are first Oars for the next Vacancy. I am the more confident in his Favour, because I know the Hands he works by, and that nothing but the Stepping in of a Great Man between, can render his Success disputable. And yet even then, if you are *Modest*, and have Courage enough to undergo that Operation which my *Irish* Countrymen are such-Proficients at, when they make *Ridgels*, I have known as unlikely things hit off.

*Fourthly*, IF you aim at a *Place in Reversion*; which, as Matters are at present handled, is the only  
certain

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certain Way of succeeding, ——— Years Value is the Purchase, to be deposited in sure Hands till the passing the *Fiat*. But in that Case, I must honestly give you a Caution, Rather give double on the passing the Patent, for fear of the Appearance of a *superior Fiat* against you : An Instance not old enough to be yet out of the Memory of the Living.

*Fifthly and Lastly*, IF a *Reversionary Grant* of Cr ———n Lands be what you aim at, and you have pitch'd upon the Particulars, I most friendly advise you, Keep your Lips seal'd even to my *Israelite*, till you have made the Bargain. Be not deluded to a Confession, even on the *greatest Paroles* of the *greatest Honour*. In this Case, *Merit* carries it before *Money* : and the *biggest Merit*, like an *unsatiable Woman*, is never to be satisfy'd with all that is given. It is like the *Hopper of a Mill*, only quiet till an *Encrease of Water* sets it on Craving.

AS for the Under-Craft Traders, such as *Tide-waiters*, *Tidesmen*, and *Supernumeraries* ; they are too mean to fall under the Cognizance of my *Israelite*. They are the peculiar Harvest of *Pimps* and *Footmen*. My *Lady's Woman* and *Miss's Nurse*, aim at Things of a higher Consideration. There is no Room for the Encouragement of Industry where the *Snicks* will hardly pay for a *Saturday's Supper*.

HERE is no *Stockjobbing*. Dear Countrymen : We do not, you see, rise or fall according to Foreign Occurrences. Our Prices are settled, and every Man is free to be a Generous Adventurer, or let it alone. Nevertheless, when I enter upon the Adventures of

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my *Israelite* in the *Island of Phœnixes*; I can take upon me to assure you both of Pleasure and Profit: We State-Projectors love to deal upon the Reserve; and you will then find, however unfit I am to manage Foreign Concerns, until initiated by a Foreign Tour, as the poor Parson said, *I am Old Dog at Domesticks*. And if I take Care, a peculiar Care, of my peculiar Countrymen, I hope the Precedent will admit of no invidious Construction, nor run any Risque of Pains and Penalties. And so, till the next Opportunity, I bid you all heartily Farewel.

*I am, S I R,*

*Your Humble Servant,*

C. D.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.


NUMB. LX.

*Pluris opes nunc sunt, quam prisca temporis annis.*  
OVID.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27. 1723.

To the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,

 O shew my self a good Christian, I declare to you, I am not angry at your *Prefatory Introduction* of my last, wholly calculated for the Weal of my Country-men. True it is, *Odd* and *Whimsical* are Epithets of too much Levity for the Subject. But I consider, that People in conversant in such Affairs, are too, too apt to square Things to their own narrow Conceptions. I had much to do, however, to bring my *Israelite* to the same charitable Frame: But when his Passion had had its full Swing, on agreeing, That whenever you fell in his Clutches on that Account, he should have Liberty of charging Double Commis-

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sions,

sions, he grew calm, and very near reconcil'd. He remain'd notwithstanding pretty peevish upon me, that I had hinted any thing relating to the Voyage to the *Island of Phoenix*. He pleaded, It was the ready way to overthrow his Designs; divulging of Secrets being the only sure Method of producing Distrusts.

BUT when I offer'd, The Necessity of such an Openness to the establishing in my Country-men an Opinion of his Capacity, he acquiesc'd. Nevertheless, cry'd he, with a little Warmth, Do you consider what you are about? Have you maturely perus'd my *Journal*? Of *Five hundred Instances* there amply related, which will you leave out, to confine your-self to the narrow Limits of a Weekly Paper? And to break off, as others have done, in the Middle of a Relation, I will never give into't as long as I live. In order, therefore, to keep my *Israelite* in Temper, and do a charitable Work to my Country-men,

### It is PROPOSED,

I. THAT *the said Five hundred Relations be fairly printed on a Superfine Royal Paper: And every Relation, with proper Embellishments and Authentick Proofs, being likely to make One intire Sheet, the Whole will consist of Five hundred Sheets, without comprizing Preface and Epistle Dedicatory.*

II. THAT *no more than Ninety-Nine Thousand be wrought off; and those only for Subscribers.*

III. THAT *the Price be Five Guineas each Book, Half down, and the other Half on Delivery.*

IV. THAT

IV. THAT *considering the Run like to be on a Book of this Nature, not only calculated for the Benefit and Information of the present Age, but the Instruction of Posterity, no Advantage of a Gratis Book shall be allow'd to any subscribing for less than Fifty.*

V. THAT *out of the Profus, nevertheless, for the Advantage of the next Age, Ten thousand Pounds shall be reserved to attend the procuring a Patent for the sole Re-printing thereof for Twenty-five Years ensuing.*

IF my Country-men enter into this Scheme (and, for my Part, I can see no Objection, as Schemes go) I will lay aside all Considerations of less Moment, and ingage the Book shall be out before the Subscriptions are full.

BUT, as 'tis usual to recommend to the World Undertakings of this Nature, by proper *Specimens*, I have cull'd out and abstracted one of the *First* and *Shortest* of the *Five hundred*, and so *ex pede Herculem*. It is intitled by my *Israelite*,

## *The TOUCH-STONE of MERIT.*

**TREBELLIVS**, who had long held a Correspondence at the Court of *JUSTINIAN*, and from Time to Time given his Advice and Assistance, according to Emergencies; on the Return of the Emperor into his Dominions, was by Him inquir'd after, and at last introduc'd by His then great

Favourite, into the Royal Presence. *Justinian*, with his usual Goodness, condescends to make an Acknowledgment of his past Services, and at the same time requires him to ask for something that might be suitable to H<sup>s</sup> Opinion of his Merit. *Trebellius*, like a good Subject, disclaims all Merit in the Discharge of his Duty, and modestly would have evaded an Answer : But the Emperor persisting in his Command, *Trebellius* asks for a Thing of small Value, but which, not interfering with his other Affairs, as a sort of *Sine Cure*, would content him. *Justinian* passes His Imperial Word, and orders a Day of Attendance for that Purpose.

*Trebellius* thought it his Duty to be mindful of his Royal Master's Orders, and attends accordingly : But after some time waiting without, being call'd in, he observ'd a spruce Spark enter the Room, and making up to the Favourite, deliver a Letter to him. *Trebellius*, who was of a Tall Stature, and stood at the Back of the Receiver, waiting for an Opportunity to be introduc'd to the Emperor, could not avoid the Curiosity of looking over his Shoulder, and there read to this Purport :

*I Promise to pay to . . . . . Fifteen  
Hundred Pieces of Gold, on his obtaining  
a Patent for the Place of——*

Mentioning the very Place which *Trebellius* had ask'd, and the Emperor had promis'd him. *Trebellius*, you may be sure somewhat upon the Nettle, addresses himself to the Favourite, and modestly tells him,



him, If His Majesty was engag'd, he would take another Opportunity. *Pardon me*, replies the Favourite, *I had forgot* — and immediately goes in. But in a little Time, instead of admitting *Trebellius* to the Emperor's Presence, returns into the Room where he stood, and, with a Foreign Shrug, *Ab! Monsieur Trebellius*, quo' he, *the Empereur my Maister be very sorry; but the Place you ask'd for was given away before you ask'd* — But — *Any-thing els* — *Trebellius*, finding himself undermin'd, and *Justinian's* gracious Intentions towards him, artfully intercepted, turn'd on his Toes, left the Room, and never ask'd, nor ever had, any-thing for all his Services.

I AM in my-self no great Admirer of *Abstracts*; for, generally speaking, (as in the present Case) they rob the Reader of all the most beautiful Embellishments. The Relation at large reports *Trebellius* a great Stickler for *Justinian*, and one that went Lengths enough to have pleaded, on that Account, a great Share of Merit: and the Notion of the Emperor, on His Return, seems to have fallen in with that Opinion. But *Avarice* in *Statesmen* postpones all *Popular Considerations* to that of *Self*; and that seems to have been the Misfortune of *Trebellius*.

BUT in the Book it-self, you will have so many Instances to the like Effect, that it were useless to say more at present, than that I am,

*Your Humble Servant,*

C. D.

WE have received a Letter from the Gentleman who sent us the Remarks on the last *New Play*, which we inserted No. LVI. containing some just Observations on a late *Critical* Performance of a certain Scribbler; whose Ignorance and Malice, as the Gentleman observes, have push'd him to find Fault with this Line,

*So grows the Strawberry beneath the Nettle;*

Which he pretends, is a *False Imitation* of the *beautiful Simplicity* of *Shakespear*, &c. When it unluckily happens to be, every Word, that incomparable Author's, and spoken by the Bishop of *Ely* in his very first Scene: And thence our Correspondent takes Occasion to make this Natural Remark: "Now what *Friend* of the Modern Author's could have wish'd "a clearer Evidence of his well-imitating *Shakespear*, "than that one of his Enemies, and so *able* a *Critic* "too! should thus mistake 'em for each other, and "abuse *Shakespear* scandalously to do Honour to "*Shakespear*?"

OUR Correspondent proceeds with equal Justice and good Sense, to correct that stupid Piece: But must excuse us for declining to insert his Letter; and indeed we cannot but wish the ingenious Gentleman had better employ'd his own Time, since he must needs know, that whatever is inserted in a certain *Brainless Paper*, is sure never to be regarded; and even that it is hardly remembred to have Being, but when, upon an extraordinary Excursion, he sticks an  
*Adver.*

*Advertisement* in his Brother *Fly*, for a double End ;  
To expose the *Patience* of his *Supporters* in the *Num-*  
*ber* of his Papers, and, To inform the Publick, that  
his Paper of the succeeding Day is to contain *Some-*  
*thing* ; which never fails to be equal with the Worst,  
and ends in *Nothing*, but a *Pasquin* on himself and  
Masters.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXI.

Παῦροι γάρ τοι παῖδες ὁμοῖοι πατρὶ πέλονται  
οἱ πλείους κακίης, παῦροι δ' ἐτε πατρὸς ἀρείης.

HOM. Odys. 2.

*Ætas parentum pejor avis tulit*

*Nos nequiores, mox daturos*

*Progeniem vitiosorem.*

HOR.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30. 1723.

To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.

SIR,



E have often been told from the Pulpit and from the Press, of the Degeneracy of the World; that we are worse than our Fathers, as They were than our Grandfathers, and as probably our Children will be than Us. I must own I begin to think there is something of Truth in the Observation: And one Proof of it, which I do not remember to have been as yet taken Notice of, we may find in considering the Necessity there has been of late Years to multiply Laws upon us; and though they

they are so many, and so excellent, I don't perceive that we are more quiet and tractable under them, than our Forefathers were under fewer. Formerly our Lawgivers assembled very rarely, upon some particular Exigence of Affairs, dispatch'd their Business in a few Weeks, put on their Boots, and Home they went again. But now, alas! We are so Wicked, that Six or Seven hundred of the Wisest and Greatest Men in the Kingdom are forced, for the Space of Six Months in every Year, to their own *manifest Detriment*, to leave their Estates, and to neglect their Private Affairs, to sit up late, to lay their Heads together, to debate and quarrel, to run the Hazard of Imprisonment for talking too Passionately, and all this only to find out Laws enough to keep us in order. What Wretches are we to make all this necessary! and what Glorious Publick-Spirited Heroes are our Legislators to submit to it!

I KNOW some People are of Opinion, that the Laws we have already, or fewer, if strictly obey'd, might make us as good Men and as good Subjects as a Thousand more could. It is possible this may be true; but the Difficulty is, how we shall be able to establish this Obedience: He would deserve well of his Country, that could effect this. A Parliament then need not sit once in Seven Years, instead of sitting Seven Years together. The Disorders, Drunkenness and Ill-blood that accompany Elections, would cease, and Faction would want a Place to shew its Head. This is a Point I have long labour'd about; and, if I do not deceive myself, I have luckily hit upon a Project that will do.

WHEN

WHEN the *Lacedæmonians* were in the present Circumstances of our Country-men, had much Law but little Obedience; the Wise *Lycurgus* found out this Remedy: He collected a Body of Laws, and pretending to leave his Country only for a short Time, he exacted an Oath of all the Citizens, by which they obliged themselves inviolably to maintain and obey all those Statutes 'till his Return. This being agreed on, What did the good Man do? He left the City, voluntarily submitted to a perpetual Banishment, and never returned to free the *Lacedæmonians* from their Oath. This is the Trick, which I fancy might be played over again very successfully; but then it must not be spoken of publickly, but only whispered about to those who are to be the Managers of it. Let Mr. ——— and ——— and ———, &c. require such an Oath of all this Nation, and then, under Pretence of going to *Cambray*, Ship-off for Ever. The Generality of the People, we see, are inclinable enough to *Swear*; and those few that are acquainted with this Story, will doubtless give into it so apparently to their own Advantage. The Nation indeed will have a Loss of such worthy Patriots, but we may hope the Benefits will countervail it. The *Lacedæmonians*, 'tis said, being a Crafty People, at length outwitted their Lawgiver, and after his Death, brought back his Remains into the City, and then thought themselves at Liberty: But Honest *Englishmen* are better Bubbles, and as an *English* Author justly observes,

*They*

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*They think the Pleasure is as great  
In being Cheated, as to Cheat.*

I F any thing is wanting to compleat the Trick, they will help out with it themselves, rather than lose an Opportunity of being deceived: Witness *Lotteries*, Witness *South-Sea*, Witness *Every-thing*.

W H A T then can hinder the Success of this Project, if it is undertaken? And who will doubt but these Generous Senators will undertake it? This will be an admirable Close to all the Laws they have made, which are so good, that we shall want no more; and so numerous, that *Jacobites* ludicrously say, in one Sense, the present Government is *Law-full*. I dare promise, it will be attended with universal Benefit and Joy; They shall stand Recorded to Posterity as *True Britons*: *Blackmore* again shall Tune his Harp, and Sing their Praises in Heroick Verse.

*I am, S I R,*

*Your most Obedient Servant,*

A. Z.

To the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,

I AM one, who have hitherto entertain'd such a frightful Notion of *Matrimony*, that nothing has been able to draw me into it. So many discouraging *Proverbs* as we have relating to that State, and so many more discouraging *Examples*, in which I have seen them verify'd, have made me often resolve with-  
in

in myself to live and die as I am. But since the late Act of Parliament obliging the Female Sex to take the Oaths to the Government, I begin to think, I might, by the Assistance of the Legislature, mend my own Condition, and many of Theirs into the Bargain.

FOR this Purpose, I intend, at the ensuing Sessions, to endeavour to get a Bill brought in, requiring all Women, before they are Married; and as a Part of the Ceremony, to take an Oath of *Allegiance*, and another allowing the *Supremacy* to their Husbands. This seems to me very likely to pass both Houses of Parliament; and especially, because there are some Instances, wherein, by the Laws of *England*, Women are already adjudg'd guilty of Treason for Facts committed against their *Husbands*: And I am willing to leave it intirely to that Wise Body of Men, Whether the Bill shall have *Retrospect*, so as to oblige all Women *already Married*, to take the same Oaths.

WHAT your Condition may be, I know not; But I am apt to think, that the Design, when *You* make it publick, will be well taken by *many a True Briton*:

*I am, S I R,*

*Your Friend and Admirer,*

OLD BATCHELOR.

WE acknowledge ourselves to be under Obligations to several of our Worthy Correspondents, whose Excuse we must desire for omitting to take earlier Notice of their Letters, which has been frequently owing to  
Ab-



Absence from Town, and the unusual Openness of the Season, which has in a manner occasion'd a Second Summer, and been one Motive, among others of *greater Consequence*, to detain Gentlemen from Town longer than they otherwise intended.

THE Worthy Gentleman that stiles himself PUBLICOLA, is informed, That we are oblig'd to yield to the pressing Inopportunities of our Printer, who having pretty much suffer'd from the Resentments of his Superiors, when he has least thought to offend, thinks there may be somewhat in this Piece that may be liable to Exception from the same Quarter; especially as we live in a Time, so fruitful of *good Characters*, that nothing seems capable to escape the *Consciousness* of Some, who are always ready to *Misconstrue* and *Apply*, on one Side, and the *Sagacity* of Others, who are employ'd to *Decypher* and *Explain*, on the other. But of this, however, we will assure the Gentleman, that such Exceptions should have no Weight with us, did we not also think, that the Personages, &c. that may perhaps be supposed, by our Enemies, to be glanc'd at, have something in their Character too *Sacred* and too *Tender* to be descanted upon or meddled with, in the Manner there offer'd.

SOMETHING of the same Nature may be said of the Excellent Letter sign'd FERDINANDO, which we cannot sufficiently admire; and nothing but the Apprehension of being misunderstood, and the Reasons just now hinted at, could prevail upon us to deny the Publick the great Satisfaction they would receive in the Perusal of it. If the Ingenious Writer will

will favour us with his Correspondence on a less capricious Subject, we shall take Pleasure to communicate his Sentiments to the World.

THE Letter of the Gentleman who subscribes *A. B.* relating to the Book of a certain Prelate lately publish'd, which he, in some Respects, aptly stiles a ROMANCE, is come to Hand; and as he is so kind to promise some Remarks upon it, we shall be very glad of a Continuance of the Correspondence, and what Lights he shall be pleas'd to afford; because we have Thoughts to take ample Notice of this *Posthumous Work* in such a manner as may be expected from a TRUE BRITON; and for that Reason, shall refer the Consideration of his Letter to the Expectation of hearing farther from him.

AND here it will be proper to acknowledge the Receipt of the Transcript relating to Bishop *Burnet's* Account of a Tryal in 1684.

WE shall take a speedy Opportunity to give the Letter sign'd RUSTICUS, relating to the Oaths, the Consideration it so well deserves.

AND we take this Occasion to acknowledge the Receipt of the Letter on the same Subject from *Newcastle-under-Line*, and thank the Gentleman for his good Opinion, &c.

WE also thank our Correspondent of *Gray's-Inn*, who stiles OLD ENGLAND, for his Letter, and shall regard his Advice as far as is proper.

THE

THE Person who presses us to advertise his *Whig Gratitude*, &c. complaining of hard Usage on Discovers Treasonable Designs, &c. is reminded, of the Maxim known and practised in all Ages and Countries, *viz. To love the Treason, and hate the Traytor*; and if, as he complains, he be profer'd no more than a *Tyde-waiter's* Place as full Reward, he may be satisfy'd, that it may, perhaps, not only equal his Merit; but that he is *literally* upon a Foot, in that Respect, (however unequal in Importance the Discoveries might be) with his deceased Brother NEY-NO, who also intended to be a TYDE-WAITER, tho' he proved a TYDE-MISTAKER.

THE DURHAM CAVALCADE has some Strokes of Wit and Delicacy; as a Song, that render it not unworthy of a Place in the TRUE BRITON; but we had rather see it in another Paper, lest it should be thought to be inserted for the Lucre of the *Reward* said to be promised by a certain *Reverend Gentleman* on that Occasion.

WE are oblig'd to our kind Friend and Correspondent Mr. C. *Sagr-m*, for the Copy of Verses he has sent us upon *Evil Ministers*, with Liberty either to insert, or light our Pipe with it; and shall make a *proper Use* thereof the first Opportunity.

WE shall take another Opportunity to acknowledge the Receipt of the Favours of our other Correspondents.



THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. EXII.

*Pictoribus atque Poetis  
Quidlibet audendi semper fuit æqua potestas.* HOR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3. 1723-4.

To the TRUE BRITON.

SIR,



Copy of Verses of mine, which you did  
me the Honour to insert in a former  
Paper on *TULLY* and *CLODIUS*,  
having succeeded so well, as to raise up  
the petty Scriblers of the Age against  
it, I hope this will meet with the like  
favourable Reception; as the Subject of it is not at  
all inferior to the other. I beg you will favour it with  
a Place in your next Paper, and you'll oblige,

Yours,

N. B.

Upon

Upon the (late) Bishop of ROCHESTER  
PREACHING.

*A*T Emmaus when Christ our Lord appear'd,  
Expounding Prophecies and Truths rever'd;  
When too he vanish'd from his Hearer's Eyes,  
And with Transcendent Brightness sought his Native  
Skies;  
How were their Hearts, when sudden Light appear'd,  
With Rapture seiz'd, and Grace Seraphick fir'd!  
Pleas'd and convinc'd of every Truth they stood,  
Admir'd, confess'd, ador'd the mighty GOD!

Scarce fainter Transports all my Pow'rs controul,  
Glow in my Breast, and triumph in my Soul,  
So sweetly ROCHESTER attracts the Sense,  
So great's the Magick of his Eloquence.  
How shall I speak the Fulness of my Heart?  
Or half the Pleasure that I feel, impart?  
How can these Ecstasies in Verse be shewn?  
This asks the Tongue of Angels, or His own.

Let Nature's Rival Art her Force apply,  
The silent Poetry of Painting try;  
To the stretch'd Canvas graceful Vigour give,  
And teach the animated Forms to live;  
So may succeeding Times her Merit raise,  
And as upon the breathing Piece they gaze,  
At once the Prelate and the Painter praise.

Here, Artist, here, the Godlike Teacher show,  
While listening Crowds attentive stand Below,  
Each moving Part, each Gesture, touch with Skill,  
And strike out all the Bishop with thy Quill.

*In venerable Robes let him arise,  
With solemn Air, and lively piercing Eyes;  
His Eyes, the Type of his discerning Mind!  
And lively Wit with piercing Judgment join'd!  
Let Beams of Glory shine around his Head,  
And charming Majesty his Face o'erspread.  
His Face how comely! how polite his Mien!  
Though stern, yet sweet! though awful, yet serene!*

*Oh couldst Thou, Echo-like, his Speech renew,  
As Honey sweet, as soft as Heavenly Dew,  
Repeat the Doctrine that all Vice disarms,  
The winning Rhet'rick that our Senses charms,  
Severest Truth so forcibly express'd,  
And Manly Sense in Easy Language dress'd:  
Oh! couldst Thou ever Vocal Accents join  
A Sharp Melodious Voice, like his, design,  
As Sweet, as Clear, as Powerful, as Divine!*

*As when Jove speaks, the Winds no longer roar,  
Nor foaming Waves are dash'd against the Shore;  
Diffusive Peace and Silence reign around,  
And All's attentive to the Heavenly Sound:  
So here Attention draw with eager Eyes,  
And uplift Hands, which testify Surprise:  
Touch every Form, no pleasing Arts conceal,  
And let each Hearer's Face his Mind reveal:  
Here let Young Men with kindling Rapture glow,  
And riper Years by their Emotions show:  
Let Virgins cease to roll a wanton Eye,  
And with his moving Sentiments comply:*

*Let*

N<sup>o</sup> 62. The TRUE BRITON.

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*Let Sinners HEAR their former Sins away ;  
The Good, the Old, become divinely Gay,  
And seem to enter on Eternal Day !*

*So ATHENS once upon her Preacher hung,  
Transported by the Precepts of his Tongue :  
So stood great PAUL ; so skilful RAPHAEL drew ;  
And as in HIM another PAUL we view,  
Another RAPHAEL may we find in You.*

To the TRUE BRITON.

*Equidem plus hodie boni feci imprudens, quam  
Sciens ante hunc diem unquam.*

T E R.

S I R,

**I**T may possibly be some Entertainment to your Readers, if you think fit to give them the following Particulars of an Adventure I lately met with in my Travels through Gloucestershire.

ONE Afternoon I discern'd in the Road before me a large Carriage full of Persons of both Sexes ; and as I drew nearer, saw at the Tail of the Waggon a great Bundle of *Crutches*, to the Number of Four or Five Pair. I wondred to see such a Body of *Beggars*, as I took them to be, in that Equipage, and first suspected it had been a Gang of *Gypsies*. Their Faces soon convinc'd me of that Mistake ; however I rode up to the Driver, and said, *Pray, Mr. Constable, whether are you having all these poor People? Not so poor, Sir,* said the Fellow, *they have all of them good Means, and have hired me at Eight Pence a Head to carry*

Mm 3

them

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*them to yonder Town, where we have been taking  
the Oaths.*

I TURNED to one of the Old Men, and ask'd him a Question about my Road; to which he answer'd me very loud, *That he was THICK OF HEARING.* He then proceeded; — *They might as well have left me at Home; for I don't know one Word they said. But I repeated the Lord's-Prayer and the Belief, and was just got to the End of the Second Commandment, when they made me kiss the Book, which I tried to do twice before, but cou'd not reach it. Tho' I was strangely shock'd with this wild Account, yet my Curiosity prevail'd with me to examine some of the other Passengers; and that I might make sure of a direct Answer, I singled out a Lad, that was crowded in amongst them, and said, What, young Spark, have you been upon the same Business? But, to my infinite Surprize, he stared in my Face, and cried out DIM SAISNEG. Our Discourse was immediately reliev'd by an ancient Matron, to this Effect. My Grandson has been in England but a Fortnight, and was Eighteen last Sabbath-Day; My poor Daughter and her Husband are dead; but have left him wherewithal to pass very well in his own Country. I desired them to let him swear in his Mother-Tongue; but they told me, that no body there understood Welsh; and that it was all one if he did it in English. So, being a sharp Boy, he clapp'd on his Hand, and, tho' I say it, spoke the long hard Words after the Man, AS WELL AS THE BEST OF US.*

I BEGAN to be afraid, that her last Words were but too true; in which I was afterwards more  
con-



confirm'd: For assoon as she had done speaking, an old Man address'd himself to me, as follows; *I fancy, Sir, you can set us Right about our Wager. I have held Half-a-dozen of Ale, that the Land of Israel is in Scotland, an't my Neighbour Dobbins stands to it, that it is in Germany.*

THIS extraordinary Dispute quite confounded me, nor could I ever have guess'd what had been the Ground of it, but for a notable clean Old Woman, who told me, They would not hear her, but she was sure, they were both in the Wrong. *I stood between them, said she, at the Book, and when I declared, that his Majesty was Lawful and Rightful King of this Realm, I heard them both say, that he was Lawful and Rightful King of Israel.*

UPON this clear Information of the State of the Case, I told them, They must be content to draw Stakes.

THE next, that gave us a Specimen of his Parts, was the Fellow that drove the Waggon. *Well, Dame, said he, you can't deny, that I spoke the Words Right, and I reckon, 'tis the best Job of Work I have done these Seven Years. I begg'd the Favour of him to explain himself. To which he answer'd; I have a Couple of Lease-Holds, one from a Popish Landlady, and the other from a lowre-headed Presbyterian; who are every foot teizing me to go either to Mass or the Meeting-House. They call me I know not how many ugly Names, and assure me I shall be damn'd, if I don't do as they would have me. But now I hope I have*

*pleas'd Every-body, and shall bear no more from them about such hard Names as Allegiance, or Supremacy, or Abjuration; for I have taken my Oath to them. A L L THREE.* O, *John*, replied my Old Woman, *if you had gone to our Parson, before you set out, as I advised you, you would never talk so idly.*

THIS sensible Reproof, in the midst of so much Ignorance and Blunder, made me the more curiously to examine into the Circumstances of the Person from whom it came. The Sum of her Account was, That she was in the *Eighty Seventh* Year of her Age, and had all her Senses very quick; that she had a pretty little *Homestead* worth *Fifty Shillings* a Year, which she was told she must lose, if she did not take the Oaths to the Government; That she went hereupon to the Minister of the Parish, to know the Meaning of it, who had kept her with him above an Hour, and made every thing very plain to her; That accordingly, she had now sworn to be true to King *George* and the Protestant Succession, and was resolved to stand by them with her *Life* and *Fortune*.

I APPLAUDED her Caution and Zeal, and so took Leave of the *Caravan of Loyal Invalids*, with this Reflection, That as Two Hundred of *Absalom's* Followers were engaged in an unlawful Act, so Thousands of Well-meaning Persons may have performed an Act enjoyn'd by Law, in their *Simplicity*, and not knowing any thing.

I am, SIR,

*Yours, &c.*

T H E



# THE TRUE BRITON.

N U M B. LXIII.

*Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci.* HOR.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6. 1723.

To the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



S I fate smoaking my Pipe t'other Day  
in a Coffee-house of Distinction, ac-  
cording to modern Usage, with the  
Gravity of a Judge, or the Sagacity of  
an Alderman: I was strangely seduc'd  
from my Meditations by the Chat of an inferior Class  
of Statesmen intituled *Taylor*s. They sat all together at  
the next Table, and I found by the Preludes of their Dis-  
course, that they all came there to while away an Hour  
or two, before they made up the *Levees* of some neigh-  
bouring Courtiers, from whom they had Reason to  
hope

hope for somewhat more momentous than *Politicks*. The *TRUE BRITON* of the 27th of *December* lay upon the Table, and had lain there some Time: But one that could read, coming in, took it in Hand, and, at the Desire of the Fraternity, read it aloud for common Good. So soon as the Person of Literature had made an End; *By my Faith*, says one of 'em, *though I can't read myself, I have a Son that can; and since Posterity is like to be concern'd, I am resolv'd to subscribe. Are you so?* reply'd his next Neighbour, *Why then, without being a Conjuror, I can tell you, you will lose my Lord — Custom. For I have heard his Valet Swear, That he has heard his Lordship Swear, That a Dissenting Parson should sooner forgive one of his Congregation the Reading a Book called the Friendly Debate, than he would any of his Dependants the Reading of a TRUE BRITON. Is that the Case, rejoin'd the Reading Person; Then I'll e'en wait to the last Edition before I subscribe or purchase: And if Things go as they are, let Posterity go as it will, say I; I'll venture my Neck for no Man, All agreed with the last Man; so up they rose, paid for their Coffee, and separated to their several Levees.*

AT first, I confess, I found myself a little chagrin'd; for I could not avoid Reasoning thus with myself: *The Lord's Valet always speaks the Sense of his Lord, as the Chaplain sometimes speaks Sense for his Lordship: Therefore, such a Declaration getting Air, may, in some Measure, depreciate the Value and obstruct the Sale, and perhaps, at long Run, bring me under the Danger of the Two new P's, more to be feared*

*feared than the other old P. What, thought I, is to be done in this Case? And scarce had I put the Question to myself, but my propitious Genius furnish'd me with a Salvo, in a Resolution to dedicate that Noble Work to that very individual Noble Lord, and by Way of Panegyrick, to transcribe *Verbatim* the Faithful, True and Glorious Preamble of that Glorious *Patent* that so *Gloriously* introduced him into that Glorious Assembly: And I think under this Provision, I may fairly set at Defiance the whole Race of Deceiters to touch me in the sensible Part.*

BESIDES, as *Se Defendendo* is allow'd in Law to be a Plea valid and indisputable, and that *Self-Preservation* does not, as yet at least, cease to be a Principle in the Law of Nature, I have most maturely debated the Matter over in my own Thoughts, and have enter'd into another Resolution of Opening the Scene with an *Essay* towards a *Panegyrick* on the present Set of *Grandeess*. Their most profound Skill in Politicks, their notorious Self-Denials and Disinterestednesses, together with their strict Adherence to Constitution and Property, are Topicks so inexhaustible, that I cannot but flatter myself, that a Touch upon that String must be highly acceptable and grateful to the Ears of every Subscriber. And as for those who want Ears, and, consequently, want a Taste for Things of that delicate Nature, I shall give them up to their own reprobate Sense, and consider 'em as too inconsiderable for any farther Notice. True it is, this *Essay* of mine, which I propose to open my Book with, will be somewhat laborious, and enhance the Charge; for I cannot propose to comprize

it in less than *half one half Sheet of Paper*: But what is that to a Man of my *Publick Spirit*, who had rather succumb under the Narrow View of *moderate Profits*, than defraud my honest Subscribers of the *minutest Particle* that may tend to their *Instruction, Diversion, or Information*.

LET me only observe to my honest Countrymen from the Premises, the Advantage and Usefulness of those *Retiring Rooms*, vulgarly call'd *Coffee-Houses*: Where a Man sedately *speaking* his Pipe (Night, Noon, or Morning, no matter whether) may collect with due Attention, somewhat that may be beneficial in human Life. Take me under this Situation, and learn by my Example to *smoak* your Pipes with Application. But I am afraid my dilating upon this Subject may insensibly draw me into a *Panegyrick* upon *Smoak*, which *Panegyrick* may interfere with my intended *Essay*, and render me as awkward a *Panegyrist* as some of my Contemporaries; Who, allowing them the Piece of Silver for every *good Line*, would find themselves grievously sore under the *meritoricus Bastinadoes* of the Bad. In short, Nature, who in her various Operations, has by her Philosophers been imagin'd to consult the Use, Benefit and Diversion of Human-kind, by her present Care of that *Exotick Species*, the *Panegyrists* I mean, seems to hint at their *Inutility* under the present Depravity of Mens Morals. But whether there is a Race of 'em, which, Silk-worm-like, lies inwrapt in their own Bowels to the Return of a more favourable Season, I must leave to those Philosophers to determine. If there be such a happy Reserve, this I hope, like a *True Briton*, I may wish  
with-

without Offence, That a Return of *True Virtue* may, like the *last Trump*, speedily summon those sleeping *Genij* from their Cells, to execute the Office they were well ordain'd for. 'Till when, it well behoves my honest Countrymen to submit with Christian Patience; and to allow, what they cannot prevent, our dull Regrators of Scandal to batten on insipid *Offals*; while they offer up to their Idols Weekly *Holo-*causts of *Satire* for *Panegyrick*.

BUT my *Self-Finidity*, and my great *Over-Zeal* for the *Grandees*, has strangely led me into narrow *Criticisms* from my main Purpose.

AFTER I have taken those prudential Precautions of a Dedication to his Excellency in the very Words of the *Preamble* aforesaid, and a *Panegyric*al *Essay* on some others of his Great Brethren, I have a *Trick* of *Resourse* worth both the other, which will surprise Mankind, and sufficiently SCREEN myself and my *Israelite* at all Adventures. What that is, I am certain the sensible Part of the World will not expect I should divulge. No! not tho' I had the Parole of a whole Co — for my Security or Indemnification. My Collection from the *Journal* of my *Israelite* will reveal Secrets of the first Rank: How some have got-off, and others got on: For the World is too wise and well read, at this Time of Day, to be fallacy'd into a Belief, that, as the Hero in *Newgate* said, *there are not Underminers among Ourselves*. *Trick* for *Trick*, was, as I remember, the Title of an *old Play*: and you may stigmatize it with the Name of *Corruption*, if you will, and bring it as a Proof of the Abdi-  
ca-

cation of *English Honesty*; but if I do not give every *Foreigner* a *Rowland* for every *Oliver*; I shall be very much mistaken.

I N short, I have begun to Collate and Prepare for the Press: My Countrymen have had my Proposals, and a Specimen; therefore, they have nothing to do but to send in their Subscriptions: For, like a Man of Honour, I declare, when the Patent comes to take Place, I shall consider the Ten thousand Pounds to be laid aside for that Use, and advance the Price proportionably.

I am, S I R,

*Your humble Servant,*

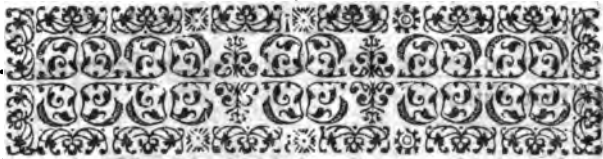
C. D.

N. B. WHERE any of a Conscience truly scrupulous can plead a Deficiency of the superior Metals, *Irish Copper*, of the last Edition, will be taken in Payment; provided it be tender'd before the Demise of the Patent.



T H E





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

N U M B. LXIV.

————— *Tolluntur in altum*  
*Ut lapsu graviore cadant.* ————— CLAUD.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10. 1723-4.

To the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



OUR inserting at my Recommendation a Scene of *Ben. Johnson's Play* of SEJANUS, in your Paper N<sup>o</sup> LHI. relating to the Tryal of *Cremutius Cordus* for asserting in a Book of *Annals*, which he wrote, *That Cassius was the Last of the Romans*; encourages me to transcribe the Grandeur and Fall of that Favourite from the same Author; and to recommend by your Means, the Reviving of that Noble Play, at either of our Theatres, which must certainly be attended with great Applause, as I take

take it to be one of the best Tragick Performances of that Author.

After having represented this Aspiring Minister possess'd of the sublimest Heights of Empire, and raising or destroying, as he thought fit, all that contributed to his Ambition; or that he imagin'd capable to stand in his Way, he introduces him beseeching his Master *Tiberius*, to give him in Marriage *Livia* the Widow of *Drusus* the Emperor's Son; hoping, that as he had already procur'd his Daughter to be betroth'd into the Imperial Family, so he should be able by this New Step to advance his other Ambitious Purposes.

*Tiberius* dissembling his Displeasure at this Proposal, condescends to argue with *Sejanus* against his Suit, and among other Reasons gives the following.

The State thou hold'st already is in Talk;  
Men murmur at thy Greatness; and the Nobles  
Stick not, in Publick, to upbraid thy Climbing  
Above our Father's Favours, or thy Scale;  
And dare accuse me, from their Hate to thee.  
Be wise, dear Friend —

What we had purpos'd to thee in our Thought,  
And with what near Degrees of Love to bind thee,  
And make thee Equal to us, for the present,  
We will forbear to speak. Only thus much,  
Believe, our lov'd *Sejanus*, we not know  
That Height in Blood or Honour, which thy Virtue  
And Mind to us, may not aspire with Merit.  
And this we'll publish on all watch'd Occasions  
The Senate or the People shall present.

*Sejanus*

*Sejanus* hereupon, with profound Submission, seems to give up his Suit; but secretly meditates Revenge for the supposed Affront; his Pride, from a Private Gentleman of *Rome*, disdaining to be check'd, though by his Sovereign and his Benefactor.

*CÆSAR* seems to know so well the Temper of *Sejanus*, that he expects he will but indifferently brook this Repulse, and the Poet makes him thus express his Resentment, after the Departure of that Minister.

To marry *Libia*! — Will no less, *Sejanus*,  
Content thy Aims? No lower Object? — Well!  
Thou know'st how thou art wrought into our Trust:  
Woven in our Design; and think'st we must  
Now use thee, whatso'er thy Projects are;  
'Tis true: But yet with *Caution*, and fit *Care*.

.....  
Those are the dreadful Enemies, we raise  
With *Favours*, and make dangerous with *Praise*.  
The *Injur'd* by us, may have *Will* alike,  
But 'tis the *Favourite* hath the *Power* to strike,  
And *Fury* ever boils more high and strong  
Heat with *Ambition*, than *Revenge* of Wrong.  
'Tis then a Part of *Supreme Skill*, to grace  
No Man too much; but hold a certain *Space*  
Between the *Ascender's Rise*, and thy own *Flat*,  
Left, when all Rounds be reach'd, his Aim be that.

Accordingly; that he might anticipate the Working  
Mischiefs of *Sejanus*, he commissions *Macro*, a fit In-  
strument and Tool of Power, to watch the Motions

of his Favourite, and at last resolves by Degrees to reduce his Greatness, which in Effect was determining to do by him.

BUT as this insidious Minister had procur'd to himself Multitudes of Creatures, and even had made the whole Military Power dependent on him, the wily Prince found himself oblig'd to pursue his Purposes, by secret Methods; and one while that he forbade Incense and Adoration to be offer'd to *Sejanus*, which was the flattering Practice of those degenerate Times to Men in Supreme Power, at other Times he appeared to lift him up to the highest Degrees of Greatness; and the following Lines on such an Occasion, when *Sejanus* had obtain'd the highest Assurances of *Cesar's* Favour, shew so much his immoderate Elevation of Mind, and his Ambitious Views, that I cannot but transcribe them, especially as they were the Prelude to his Destruction; as oftentimes happens to be the Case of ambitious Ministers, who think themselves most secure, when they are on the Brink of Ruin.

Swell, swell, my Joys; and faint not to declare  
Your selves as ample as your Causes are.  
I did not live till Now; This my first Hour  
Wherein I see my Thoughts reach'd by my Pow'r.  
But this — and gripe my Wishes! Great and High,  
The World knows only Two, that's *ROME* and I  
My Roof receives me not. — 'Tis Air I tread;  
And at each Step, I feel my advanced Head  
Knock out a Star in Heaven! Rear'd to this Height,  
All my Desires seem Modest, Poor and Shght.

That

That did before sound *Impudent*: 'Tis PLACE,  
 Not BL-OD, discerns the *Noble* and the *Base*.  
 Is there not something more than to be *Cæsar*?  
 Must we rest there? It irks t'have come so far  
 To be so near a Stay. *Caligula*,  
 Would thou stoodst *Stiff* and *Many* in our Way,  
 Winds lose their Strength, when they do empty fly  
 Unmet of Woods or Buildings. Great *Fires* dye  
 That want their Matter to withstand them: So  
 It is our *Grief*, and will be our *Loss*, to know  
 Our Power shall want Opposites; unless  
 The Gods, by mixing in the Cause, would bless  
 Our Fortunes with their Conquest. That were worth  
*Sejanus*' Strife, durst Fates but bring it forth.

AFTER these vain glorious Boasts, under Pre-  
 tence of farther Honours decreed him by *Cæsar*, he is  
 drawn to the Senate, amidst the Acclamations of his  
 Creatures; and there arrested by *Macro*, in the Height  
 of all his Glory and Expectations, and instantly con-  
 demn'd by the very Voices that the Moment before  
 were echoing out his Praises. And this gives Oc-  
 casion to the following Reflexions of Two *Honest Ro-*  
*mans*, which finely describe his Grandeur and his Fall.

*Lepidus and Arruntius.*

Who would depend upon the *Popular Air*,  
 Or *Voice of Men*, that have to Day beheld  
 (That, which if all the Gods had fore-declar'd,  
 Would not have been believ'd) *Sejanus* fall?  
 He that this Morn, rode proudly, as the *Sun*,  
 And breaking thro' a *Mist* of Clients Breath,  
 Came on, as gaz'd at, and admir'd, as he  
 When superstitious *Moors* salute his Light!

Nº 2. That

That had our servile Nobles waiting him  
As common Grooms; and, hanging on his *Look*,  
No less than *Human Life on Destiny*!  
That had *Mens Knees* as frequent as the *Gods*;  
And *Sacrifices* more than *Rome* had *Altars*:  
And this *Man* fall! — Fall! Ay, without a *Look*  
That durst appear his *Friend*, or lend so much  
Of vain Relief, to his chang'd State, as *Pity*!

Arr. They that before, like *Gnats*, plaid in his  
*Beams*,

And throng'd to *circumscribe* him, now! not seen,  
Nor deign to hold a *common Seat* with him!  
Others, that *waited* him unto the *Senate*,  
Now inhumanely *ravish* him to *Prison*!  
Whom (but *this Morn*) they follow'd as their *Lord*,  
Guard thro' the *Streets*, bound like a *Fugitive*!  
Instead of *Wreaths*, give *Fetters*; *Strokes* for *Scoops*;  
Blind *Shame* for *Honours*, and black *Towns* for *Titles*!  
Who would trust *slippery Chance*? —

I SHALL conclude this Trouble with the fine  
Description the Poet gives of the Rage of the Popu-  
lace on this Occasion.

The eager Multitude no sooner heard  
The *Murmur* of *Sejanus* in *Decline*,  
But with that Speed and Heat of Appetite,  
With which they greedily devour the Way  
To some great Sports, or a new Theatre,  
They fill'd the *Capitol* and *Pompey's Cirque*,  
Where, like so many *Mastives*, biting Stones,  
As if his *Statues* now were *sensitive*  
Of their wild Fury, first, they tear them down;  
Then

N<sup>o</sup> 64. *The TRUE BRITON.* 547

Then fast'ning Ropes, drag them along the Streets,  
Crying in Scorn, This, this was that Rich Head  
Was crown'd with Garlands, and with Odors! This  
That was in *Rome* so reverenc'd!—

.THE N, speaking of the Eagerness of the Senate  
to condemn him to lose his Head, he adds :

The Rout they follow with confused Voices  
Crying, *They're glad ; Say, They could ne'er abide him ;*  
Enquire, *What Man he was ? What kind of Face ?*  
*What Beard he had ? What Nose ? What Lips ?* Protest  
*They ever did presage he'd come to this :*  
*They never thought him Wise, nor Valiant ; Ask*  
*After his Garments ? When he dies ? What Death ?*  
And not a Beast of all the Herd, demands,  
*What was his Crime ? Or, who were his Accusers ?*  
*Under what Proof, or Testimony, he fell ?*  
*There came, says one, a huge long-worded Letter*  
*From Caprea against him. Did there so ?*  
O they are satisfy'd ! No more !—

— His Head no sooner off,

But that, and th' unfortunate Trunk were seiz'd  
By the rude Multitude ; who with violent Rage  
Have rent it Limb from Limb. A Thousand Heads,  
A Thousand Hands, Ten thousand Tongues and Voices  
Imploy'd at once in several Acts of Malice !  
Old Men not staid with Age, Virgins with Shame,  
Late Wives with Loss of Husbands, Mothers of Children,  
Losing all Grief, in Joy of his sad Fall,  
Run quite transported with their Cruelty :  
These mounting at his *Head* ; these at his *Face* ;

These digging out his *Eyes*; those with his *Burns*  
Sprinkling themselves, their Houses, and their  
Friends:

Others are met have ravish'd thence an *Arm*,  
And deal *small Pieces* of the *Flesh* for Favours:

• These with a *Thigh*; this hath cut off his *Hands*,  
And this his *Feet*; these *Fingers*; and these *Toes*;  
That hath his *Liver*; he his *Heart*: There wants  
Nothing but Room for Wrath, and Place for Hatred!  
What cannot oft be done, is now o'er-done;  
The *Whole*, and all of what was Great *Sejanus*,  
And next to *Cæsar*, did possess the World,  
Now torn and scatter'd, as he needs no Grave,  
Each little Dust covers a little Part;  
So lies he nowhere, and yet often bury'd!

THE Poet giving an Account of the like Ca-  
tastrophe which befel the Children and Family of  
*Sejanus*, concludes his Performance with this excellent  
Caution to Great Men.

— Forbear, you *Things*!

That stand upon the Pinnacles of State,

To boast your *Slippery Neigh*. When you do fall,

You dash your selves in pieces, ne'er to rise;

And he that lends you *Pity* is not *Wise*.







THE  
TRUE BRITON.

NUM B. LXV.

— *Fragili querens illidere dentem,*  
*Offendet solido.* —

HOR.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13. 1723.



WHILE I am examining the several Errors in the Conduct of this Paper, it would be a great Absurdity and Weakness to be so busy in those Enquiries as never to be at Leisure enough to recollect, with proper Care and Application, how I ought to behave, and how I have behaved myself in the Quality of a Political Writer. I shall therefore give a very serious Review, and after having made my

No 4

grave,

grave, cool and deliberate Search into my several Papers, I must declare it, as a very sober Truth, That the Watch I have always had over my Pen, has not been so much in vain, as some Persons have been pleas'd to think, notwithstanding the Gravity of their solemn Heads, and the Judgment that appears in their Countenances, when they shake their Reverend Noddles, and affirm the Contrary, with an *Inuendo* Severity, that would be enough to over-awe a Country-Gentleman of less Courage and Sagacity than myself; and drive a Person, that did not love the *Honest English Freedom of Speech* so well, as I must confess I do, into down-right Silence and Confusion.

THERE was lately a great Personage very deeply Learned in *moulding* and *fashioning* the Laws, that, screwing up his Face into a Political Form, said, in a large Assembly where I happen'd to be present, That the Author of the TRUE BRITON had written ~~some~~ Things, which, by annexing to them *proper Inuendoes*, would appear to be very highly Criminal in the Eye of the Law.

I MUST own at first I was very much disturb'd at this Speech, deliver'd with such a Shew of Wisdom, and vex'd that I, who had always studied to promote the Love of Justice and Honour, should have overlook'd myself so far as to have given any Room, that I might be suspected to have incurred the least Displeasure of any of my Readers, when I knew my Aim was to give them Pleased; or to have propagated any Criminal Principles, which it has been always a standing Maxim with me to discontinue and to deprecate, to the

the utmost of my Power. I could not forbear asking the Learned Gentleman, What Particular he cou'd name, in which the TRUE BRITON had behaved himself so as to deserve that severe Censure? for it was past my finding out. — O! Sir, said he, shrugging his Shoulders, *It is not Every body that can find it out — He is, in his plain Way of Speaking, a very Honest Writer; But there is a Term call'd an INUENDO among us, that will shew him to have been frequently Guilty, monstrously Guilty! of criminal Libels; and I myself have studied a considerable Time to whisper about the Town some of these Inuendoes I mention against him.*

THIS Answer recover'd me from my former Apprehensions, and finding that while I had studied to be Faultless, others had been studying how to find Faults with me; and that in all I had said, there were (as the Divines term it) only *Scandals taken, and not given*, I departed from the Company very well satisfied.

AS soon as I came home, I resolv'd to explain myself a little upon this Head; and I must ask Pardon if I treat a Subject, which some grave-disposed People think very serious, after a more ludicrous manner, than they may think it deserves.

AN *Inuendo* in the Hands and Management of such a *Political Lawyer* as I have been describing above, carries with it an uncontrollable Force, and bears down before it the most Innocent Writer in the World, whom such an artful Pleader has a mind to make Guilty. It makes past Times present, and can bring

bring all the different Periods and Revolutions of History into fresh Action before us. It can change Countries, and make *Ancient Greece* and *Old Rome*, *Spain*, *Poland*, &c. appear to be only different Names for one and the same Nation; and shew that they all signify the same as the Word *ENGLAND*, in their Turns. It can make *Equil Ministers*, that liv'd never so many Ages ago, revive again, and prove them to be actually opening the present New Year with their Sinister Operations. In fine, This *new-invented Piece of Law-Artifice*, that will not allow Writers to have their own Meanings, but will be ever devising new Meanings for them, can make as many Transformations out of a *plain* and *literal* Narrative, as are to be found in the *Metamorphosis* of *Quid*; and in such Cases the *Lawyer* may render them as *plausible* as the *Poet*, and they must be own'd at the same Time to be as *beautifully* Fictitious.

A *N Inuendo*, or *forc'd Construction*, is, it must be confess'd, a very useful, a very ornamental, and necessary Expedient for the Class of *Political Lawyers*. They may not improperly call it, *Their Philosopher's Stone*; for in whatever Cause they apply it so well as to make it touch the Person they aim at, they are commonly sure to make *Gold* of him, and carry away the Demonstrations of the Power of this excellent new-invented Art in their Pockets, with great Gladness of Heart, and a *Secret Consciousness* of their own singular Merit in striking out such *happy, just and beneficial* Applications.

BUT then again, where it is unskilfully managed, it is apt to go off like *Aurum fulminans*, and only serve

N<sup>o</sup> 65. *THE TRUE BRITON.* 243

to put ignorant People that practise it, in Amazement,  
and to create Laughter among the Wise.

I remember, ~~some~~ Years ago, a very Learned and Zealous Gentleman, who made himself very Eminent for talking and writing like (what, it seems, he really was by Profession) an *Apothecary*, published a very accurate and elaborate Treatise (and did it at the small Price of a *Shilling*, that it might be Every-body's Money) in which he laid down many very important Arguments to demonstrate, That Mr. *Pope's* Poem, intituled, *The Rape of the Lock*, was a sly and subtle Scheme, or Plot, contrived by the said Mr. *Pope* to introduce among us Popery, Tyranny, Arbitrary Power, and a large Inundation of numerous *Romish* Impositions, Ceremonies, and Superstitions.

I Can perfectly well recollect, that after this ~~other~~ Discovery, the seeming Harmlessness of that Poetical Performance was frequently used, by many *well-meaning* Readers of that *Quick-sighted Apothecary* (who was at that Time of Day called by the *Buttons*, *PASQUIN* upon *POPE*) as a very great Aggravation of the Guilt of that sly, crafty and designing Poet.

THERE shortly after ran a Story about the Town, That a Country-Bookseller, being more than ordinarily busy in dispersing these unlawful Books among the good Protestant Subjects in the Country, he was inform'd against as a Disaffected Person, and, by an Order of a Justice of Peace, seized and brought before him. The Man owned the selling of the Books, but could not comprehend the Guilt there was in pro-  
pagating

pagating so Innocent a Poem.—— The Justice told him, That He was guilty of Treason, and a Propagator of Popish Superstitions, and therefore should be committed without Bail or Mainprize; but being unacquainted with the Nature of such a Commitment, and how it should be drawn in so extraordinary a Case, he sent for a *Brother-Justice* to give him Assistance in so critical a Conjunction. Well! the other Justice appears, hears the whole Story, and assures his Brother, That the Poem was, an Innocent Poem, the Man an Inoffensive Man; and advised him, for Shame, to discharge him. What! reply'd the Zealous Justice, discharge him? *An Innocent Poem! a Harmless Man! Are we Justices only to be ignorant of the Meaning of an Author, when all the World, besides Us, understands it.* Pray, Brother-Justice, read that Treatise, (giving him the abovementioned Remarks) and you will find, That in this Innocent Poem, as you call it, a sly Plot is carried on to introduce his Name-fake the *Pope* and the *Devil* and all, upon us at once.

BROTHER, rejoin'd the other Justice, whispering in his Ear: *I have read this Treatise; It is a Comical Raillery upon Mr. Pope, father'd upon an Apothecary as its properest Author: Do not let Us get into the Number of Apothecaries too, and disgrace ourselves; That Poet is a Man of great Wit, and it will, by no means, behove Men in our Posts to play the Fool with him.*

THE Angry Justice of Peace, Zealous as he was, found at last, with much ado, on which Side the Jest lay, and would, infallibly turn at last, and was Wise enough

N<sup>o</sup> 65. *The* TRUE BRITON. 555

enough to compose himself in Earnest, and dismiss the poor Country Bookseller, with an Air of *Gravity*, that was thought very becoming on that Occasion; and as soon as the Parties that had appeared before him were dismiss'd, declared, He would never again be guided by *Apothecaries*, &c. and forswore meddling any more with those Edged-Tools, called INUENDOES; and has accordingly kept his Word from that Day to this: Since which the Country has been intirely at Ease, and many good Protestants have bought off several Editions of *The Rape of the Lock*, without any *Publick Molestation*, and read it with a great deal of *private Diversion*.



THE



THE  
**TRUE BRITON.**

NUMB. LXVI.

*Virtus repulsæ nescia sordide,  
Intaminatis fulget honoribus :  
Nec sumit aut ponit secures  
Arbitrio popularis auræ.*

HOR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17. 1723-4.

To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



LUTARCH, in his Treatise intitl'd,  
*Political Precepts; Or, Instructions  
for the Managing of State-Affairs,*  
written at the Request of his Friend  
*Menemachus*, who was entring upon  
Publick Employments, gives a Beautiful Number of  
Precepts and Instructions to qualify him for that De-  
sign, the Heads whereof I take the Liberty to recom-  
mend to your Readers, and refer them for farther Sa-  
tis-



satisfaction to the Piece itself in that noble Author, who, by Excellent Examples, embellishes and confirms the following important Rules, which he lays down. I the rather desire you would insert them in your TRUE BRITON, because it is apparent, from all their *Victories and Actions*, that our *present Set of Grandees* have formed their Conduct on this Illustrious Model.

I. HE requires of him that will enter upon the Management of State Affairs, to bring a good *Intention*, looking at a right *End*, without *Ambition, Envy, Jealousy, &c.*

II. THEN, by six Similitudes, he shews, how they ought to be *dispos'd* who enter on the Management of great Affairs; that is, To *consider* and *thoroughly understand* the *Disposition* of those they are to govern, that, by *fasting themselves to it*, they may win them by little and little.

III. HE asserts, That a good Governor ought not to accommodate himself to the *Vices* of the People, but to manage them discreetly, and withdraw them by *Degrees* from *Evil*; and then propounds the Means of arriving at such an Happiness, the Principal of which is, By *reforming himself first*.

IV. HAVING prov'd. That the *good Life* and *Eloquence* of him who desires, well to manage Publick Affairs, are the *Foundations* of his *Ambition*; and considered of what Weight such a Person's *Speech* is, he shews, how he ought to behave himself in it.

V. HE then shews the Two Ways of entering into Publick Business; the one *short and expeditious*, but not without *Danger*; The other *more obscure and slow*, but attended with greater *Security*; and discourses very pertinently of the first, declaring what is to be done, and what to be avoided in it; and in particular, That a Statesman ought to behave himself so Virtuously at his *Entrance*, that his very *Ill-wishers* should be constrain'd to make way for his Preferment; That he ought to consider, that there is every where Work enough cut out for Men of Courage; That therefore he should not set himself to degrade the *Good*, but only the *Wicked*. For when the Multitude, says he, having outrag'd some Good Man, soon after, as it frequently happens, repent of their Indignation, they think that Way of excusing this Offence the *Easiest*, which is indeed the *Justest*, to wit, the destroying of him who was the Persuader and Author of it. But the Rising up, continues he, to humble and pull down a *Wicked Person*, who has, by his *Audaciousness* and *Cunning*, subjected the *City* to himself (such as heretofore *Cleon* and *Clitophon* were in *Athens*), makes a *Glorious Entrance* to the Management of Publick Affairs. And then he recommends the Example of *Solon*, in his Entrance on the Business of the State; The City of *Athens*, says he, being divided into Three Parts, the *Diarians* (or Inhabitants of the Hill) the *Pedians* (or Dwellers on the Plain) and the *Paralians* (or those who liv'd by the Water-side) he, joining himself with none of them, but being indifferent to them all, and saying and doing all Things to bring them to Concord, was chosen their Law-giver to take away their Differences, and by that Means settled the State.

VI. HE

VI. HE gives the *Second Way* of entering upon Publick Business; in which he lays down for Rules, That a Statesman must advance under the Authority of those who are most Respected in the State: That he must keep inviolably the Friendship of such; That the most Virtuous are to be follow'd; and shews, by sundry Examples, the Danger of keeping Company with the *Ambitious*.

VII. HE shews, What *Friends* a Statesman ought to chuse: That he ought not to shun his *Friends*, and be familiar with *Flatterers*: That for the Sake of them, he must not derogate from the *Authority* of the *Laws*; nor permit them to abuse his Friendship to the committing Disorders in the State. But, after the Example of *Phocion* and others, must prefer the Preservation of the *Laws* and his *Country*. to any particular Person whatever. He then,

VIII. SHEWS, how a Statesman ought to behave himself towards his Friends: That he may favour them after he has secur'd the *Publick*; and how far this *Favour* is to extend.

IX. HE gives the Statesman Rules how he ought to behave himself towards his *Enemies*: That he must lay aside his *particular Resentments*, when the *Service* of the *Publick* is in Question: And records the following Noble Instance to this Purpose: *Cretinas* the *Magnesian*, says he, having for his Adversary or Rival in the Government, one *Hermeas*, a Man not Powerful and Rich, but Ambitious and High-spirited, when the *Miskridatick* War came on, seeing the City in Danger, desired *Hermeas* either to take the Govern-

ment upon himself, or manage the Affair whilst he retired; or, if he would have him take the Command of the Army, to depart himself immediately, lest they should, through their ambitious Contention, destroy the City; The Proposal pleas'd *Hermeas*, who saying, That *Cretinas* was a better Soldier than himself, did, with his Wife and Children, quit the City. *Cretinas* then sent him forth before, furnishing him out of his own *Estate* with all such Things as are more useful to those that flee from Home, than to those that are besieg'd; and excellently defending the City, unexpectedly preserv'd it, being at the Point to be destroy'd. *Our Author proceeds*; For if 'tis generous, and proceeding from a magnanimous Spirit to cry out,

*I love my Children, but my Country more;*

Why should it not be readier for every one of them to say, *I hate this Man, and desire to do him a Diskindness, but the Love of my Country has greater Power over me?* For not to condescend to be reconcil'd to an Enemy, for those very Causes, for which we ought to abandon a Friend, is even to Extremity savage, and brutish. He then concludes, That 'tis however, incomparably better, not to hate *any one* for *one's own particular Interest or Humour*; but only to be an Enemy to those that would prejudice the Publick; and *adds*, That we ought to praise even our Enemies, in just Things, and to uphold them if they are unjustly caluminated. *A Doctrine that never was reduced to Practice till the virtuous Times in which we live!*

X. H. E. considers, Whether a Statesman ought to concern himself in ALL Publick Affairs: and resolves, That he ought to manage ONLY what is of greatest

greatest Importance; and that for the following Reasons. 1. Because 'tis more *Anguish*. 2. Because the contrary renders me suspected of *Ambition* and *Vain-Glory*. 3. Because it makes him *Odious* and *Ridiculous*. 4. Because he ought to shew the Ill-will of others, whether Great or Little. 5. That shewing himself a Lover of Publick Good, he must not imagine himself to be able to manage *every Thing*; but must, as do the Masters of Ships, make use of others. 6. That by this means Publick Affairs are better regulated. And, 7. That 'tis a great Shame and Folly to think of doing *many Things* himself *alone*, since he often finds enough to do in performing *one* as he ought.

XI. He treats of the *Prudence* with which a Statesman ought to be furnished for obviating *Calumnies*, and procuring what is for the Publick Good to be receiv'd by the People, yea, even by his very Enemies.

XII. THAT he ought not to hunt after ALL Offices, and how he ought to behave himself as well in Great as Little Employments.

XIII. THAT it behoves him that enters upon any Office, not only to have at hand those Arguments of which *Pericles* put himself in mind; when he first received the Robe of State: *Bethink thyself, Pericles, thou govern'st Freemen, thou govern'st Grecians, yea, Citizens of Athens*; but farther also, he ought to say thus to himself, *Thou being a Subject, govern'st a City which is under the Obedience of Cæsar's Proconsul or Lieutenant. Thou must make thy Robe scantier; look from the Pavilion to the Tribunal, and not place too great*

*Confidence in thy Crown, since thou seest Shoes over thy Head.* He then concludes, That Men, by not making suitable Reflections on the Importance of their Office, and what is required of them in it, indanger their Lives, or at least render themselves contemptible and ridiculous.

XIV. THAT a Statesman ought to keep Friendship with other Lords or Great Men, of whose Good Will he may stand in need; and refer all to the Publick Profit.

XV. THAT he ought to take heed, lest by seeking the Friendship of FOREIGN PRINCES, he bring his Country into Slavery. This he attributes to the Avarice and Ambition of the chief Men in a State, who either by injuring their Fellow-Subjects, compel them to fly out of their Country; or in such things wherein they differ from one another, disdaining to be worsted by their Equals, they bring in such as are more powerful; whence both the Council, People, Courts of Judicature, and whole Magistracy lose their Authority. But he ought to appease private Citizens by Equality, and mightier Men by mutual Submissions, so as to keep Peace within the Commonwealth, and coolly to determine their Affairs; making for these Things, as it were for Secret Diseases, a certain *Political Medicine*, both being himself rather willing to be vanquish'd among his Fellow-Citizens, than to get the better by the Injury and Dissolution of his Country's Rights, and requesting the same of every one else, and teaching them how great a Mischief this Obstinacy in Contending is.

XVI. FROM

XVI. FROM hence he proceeds naturally to shew, That if there be any Disease in the State, a good Statesman ought to conceal it, and cure it *Within*; since Remedies from *Without* are dangerous: That in this Case he must Act and Speak freely; and should not desire to over-live his Country's Ruin.

XVII. HE shews, How he that manages State-Affairs is to converse with his Companions, and after having censur'd the Arrogance and Envy of Men in Power, adds this Noble Rule: One ought, says he, to court his Superior, advance his Inferior, honour his Equal, and love and embrace all, as having been made Friends, not by eating at the same Table, drinking in the same Cup, or meeting at the same solemn Feast, but by a *Common* and *Publick Bond*, and having, in some sort, an *Hereditary Benevolence* deriv'd from their *Country*. And this, as his other Rules, he illustrates by several Noble Instances, which the Limits of your Paper will not permit to be recited.

XVIII. HE discourses on the Art of Government, shewing wherein it consists; to wit, In teaching all to Obey well, and subject themselves to him who commands.

XIX. HE, consequently, treats of the Duty of good Subjects in a regulated State, and how they ought to help their Magistrates, and profit the Publick; because the General Law authorizes him who does what is just: But yet on Condition that no *Novelty* be attempted, unless in Cases of Necessity or great Importance.

XX. HE shews in what Things a Magistrate may gratify the People; By accommodating himself to little People, when the Publick Interest is not concern'd; and by drawing them with Sweetness and Discretion from great Dangers.

XXI. IN executing Affairs of great Consequence, he shews what Persons a Magistrate ought to chuse for his Assistants; to wit, The most Powerful, and the Mildest, who have Wisdom, without a contentious Humour.

XXII. OF what Vices he ought to beware, and principally of AVARICE and AMBITION.

XXIII. THAT a Statesman should not despise *Glory or true Honour*; and that there is nothing which renders one Man so obsequious and submissive to another, as the Confidence of his good Will, and the Opinion his Actions inspire of his *Integrity and Justice*. Wherefore *Demosthenes*, says he, rightly affirm'd, That the greatest Preservative of States against Tyrants, is *Distrust*: For the Part of the Soul by which we believe, is most apt to be caught.

XXIV. THE Two principal Advantages in which a Magistrate may glory, and by which he ought to think himself honour'd, are, *That the People Confide in him*; and, *That they Love him, and wish him well*. And under this Head, he proceeds to give Examples how prejudicial the Ill. will of the People is to a Governor; and, on the contrary, how serviceable their Amity; and observes, That of all Loves, the strongest  
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and divineſt, is that which is by Cities and States borne to any Man for his Virtue.

XXV. HIS next Rule relates to *Largesses* or *Bounties* to the *Publick*; but this being a Case peculiar to the Great Men among the *Antients*, I ſhall not trouble the Little ones among the *Moderns* with repeating any Thing about it.

XXVI. THAT the People muſt not be manag'd by *ſuperfluous Expences*; but by *Virtue*, *Prudence*, and *Eloquence*; And under this Head, he gives an admirable Deſcription of a good *Stateſman*, which I muſt refer to the many *Living Examples* of the ſame, in the preſent Age, having not Room to recite it here.

XXVII. HOW a good Magiſtrate ought to govern himſelf in *Seditious* and *Civil Wars*; That he ought not to join with ONE PARTY to RUINE the OTHER. That he ought to ſpeak to BOTH, to help them in *common*, and to bring them to Agreement; and, if poſſible, prevent *Sedition*.

XXVIII. and Laſtly, HE inſtructs him who manages State-Affairs, to procure the Continuance of *Peace* and *Union* amongſt his Fellow-Subjects: He obſerves, That as a Conflagration ſeldom begins in Sacred and Publick Places; but that a Candle negligently left in an Houſe, or the burning of a little Traſh or Rubbiſh, raiſes a great Fire, and works a common Miſchief: So *Sedition* in a State, is not always kindled by Contentions about *Publick Affairs*; but oftentimes the Differences ariſing from private Concerns and Jangles, being propagated into the Publick, have di-

sturb'd a whole City: And concludes, from several Examples, That the Beginnings of Evils must be prevented and extinguish'd betimes; and that 'tis not unbecoming a Great Statesman to endeavour to compose *Private Animosities*; For, says he, Contentions about *Publick Matters*, where *Private Grudges* are taken away, are soon appeas'd, and bring no difficult or fatal Mischiefs.

I SHALL only add, That 'tis to be presumed this Excellent Author did not live in an Age, when *Private Vices* were esteem'd *Publick Benefits*; and that People then, had not the Art to make themselves formidable by the *Divisions* and *Animosities* of their *Fellow-Subjects*.

I am, SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

R. S.



THE



THE  
TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. LXVII.

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*Auro pulsa fides, auro venalia jura.* PROP.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 20. 1723-4

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THE Wisdom of our Ancestors in the Constitution and Frame of the *British* Government, is never enough to be admired and applauded. We have often touch'd upon the Excellency of our Constitution, and shall not now repeat what we have heretofore said on that Subject; But shall take this Occasion to present our Readers with a View of the Constitution of the *Exchequer*, and the Care which our Ancestors took to prevent private Men from raising exorbitant Fortunes at the Publick Expence; as it is presented us by a late celebrated Author,\* to whose Works we are beholden for several valuable Transcripts, in the Course of our former Papers: And this we shall add as a Supplement to what we have formerly repeated on this important Head.

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\* *Vid. Davenant's Discourse on Resumptions, Pag. 291, to 303, &c.*

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THE Constitution of the Exchequer, *says he*, (we may rather call it the Constitution of the Kingdom) has contriv'd to put a great many Lets and Obstructions in the way of designing Favourites and rapacious Followers of the Court, and that no Grant shall pass from the King but upon strict Inquiry and after mature Deliberation.

IN order to which the State thought it necessary to be at the Expence of several Great Officers, who should be, as so many Centinels, continually watching that the King may not be surprized nor defrauded.

REGULARLY and according to the Laws of the Land, Grants from the Crown ought to make the following Steps.

THE Petition is first made to the King, in which (as we have noted before) the Petitioner ought to insert the true and express Value of the Thing demanded.

THE King refers this Petition to the *Treasurer* of the *Exchequer*, now call'd *Lord-High-Treasurer of England*; whose first Step is to have a Particular of the Thing petition'd for from the Auditor, if it lies before him, or from the King's Remembrancer, if it lies before him: This Care is taken that the State may not be deceiv'd in the Value of the Thing.

THE Petition is first referr'd to this High Officer, because the Law presumes that the whole State and Condition of the Revenue lies before him, that he  
knows

knows what Debts and Engagements the King has upon him, and whether the Expences of his Wars, and the other necessary Charges of his Government, are not such, as, for the Peoples Ease, and by the Rules of Justice, ought for the present to restrain his Bounty. If the Thing to be granted be of great Value, if it cannot be given away without great Damage to the Crown, if by reason of such Gift he is hindred from paying his just Debts, or from having wherewithal to defray the Charges of the Government, or to provide for the Kingdom's Defence; or if by this and other Gifts he must be driven, through the failing of his own Revenue, to lay heavy Burthens upon the People; 'tis the Duty of the Lord Treasurer to represent the whole Matter honestly and impartially to the King, and to hinder the Grant from proceeding any further. And as a Tie upon him he takes the following Oath.

**Y**E shall swear, That well, and truly, ye shall serve the King our Sovereign Lord, and his People, in the Office of Treasurer; and ye shall do Right to all manner of People, Poor and Rich, of such Things as toucheth your Office; And that King's Treasure truly ye shall keep and dispend, and truly ye shall counsaile the King, and his Counsel ye shall layn, and keep; And that ye shall neither know nor suffer the King's Hurt, nor his dis-heriting, nor that the Rights of his Crown be distressed by any means, as far forth as ye may let; And if ye may not let it, ye shall make Knowledge thereof clearly and expressly, to the King, with your true Advice, and Counsel: And ye shall do and purchase the King's Profit in all that

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*ye may reasonably do, as God you help, and the Holy Evangelists.*

IT was hardly possible to devise a more binding Oath. And the Words *Ye shall well, and truly, serve the King our Sovereign Lord, and his People, in the Office of Treasurer,* are an Evidence that our Forefathers took themselves to have some kind of Interest in what was call'd the Crown Revenue.

IF the Grant meets with no Objection at the *Treasury*, the King signs a Warrant directed to the *Attorney or Solicitor-General*, who is another Great Officer, empowering him to prepare a Bill containing such a Grant. And if the Grant be of Money appropriated by Act of Parliament, or of Lands annex'd to the Crown by Act of Parliament, or if the Grant be any ways illegal or prejudicial to the Crown, it is the *Attorney or Solicitor-General's* Duty to advertise thereof.

AFTER Mr. *Attorney* has pass'd it, it goes to the *Signet*, the Custody whereof is in the Secretary of State, who being a Minister in high Office is presum'd by the Laws to be watchful for the King's Good, and to inquire into all Matters relating to the Weal Publick. He is presum'd to be appriz'd of the Persons Merits to whom the Grant is to be made, and likewise to understand either the Affluence or Want in the King's Coffers, and the general Condition of his Revenue. And having an Allowance for Intelligence, he is presum'd to know the Discourses and Opinions of the People, and how such Grants are relish'd: If therefore the Person suing out the Grant  
has

N<sup>o</sup> 67. *The* TRUE BRITON. 571

has no Merit at all, or at least no sort of Pretension to so great a Reward, or if he knows the Publick to be press'd with Wants and Debts; or if he hears that the People murmur at the Taxes which Profusion introduces, and clamour to see the Nation's Money wasted, by his Duty, as Privy Counsellor, and by his Oath, he is bound faithfully and plainly thereof to inform the King.

FROM the *Signet* it should go to the *Privy Seal*, who is likewise another Great Officer; who being near the Person of the King, is presum'd to know the Condition of the Kingdom; and therefore the Law has made him another Check. He takes this Oath:

*YE shall, as far forth as your Cunning and Discretion sufficeth, truly, justly and evenly execute and exercise the Office of Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, to you by his Highness committed, not leaving or eschewing so to do, for Affection, Love, Meed, Doubt, or Dread of any Person or Persons, &c.*

SO that if the Lord Privy-Seal finds that through Corruption in other Offices, or that by Power, Impunity, or partial Favour, a Grant tending greatly to the publick Damage, and to the Diminution of his Prince's Revenue, has pass'd so far as to his Office, he ought to stop it there, and is bound in Duty, and by his Oath, to lay the whole Matter before the King.

FROM the *Privy-Seal* it goes to the *Great-Seal*, in the Custody of the *Lord Keeper*, or *Lord Chancellor of England*, who is accounted the Kingdom's, as well as the King's Officer, and there the Grant is completed;

pleated; upon which score, in the Eye of the Law, this Great Minister is most look'd upon. His Oath is the same with that of the Lord Treasurer, He swears,

*WELL and Truly to serve the King and his People in the Office of Chancellor; truly to Counsel the King; not to suffer his Hurt or Dis-beriting, nor that the Rights of the Crown be distress'd, by any Means, as far forth as he may let; And if he may not let it, he is to make it clearly and expressly known to the King, with true Advice and Counsel; And, in all that he may, he is to do and purchase the King's Profit.*

SO that more than any other, as the highest Officer, and as the last Check, the Law presume him to consult for the King's Good. Therefore if the Grant be exorbitant, if it be made to an undeserving Person, if it notoriously surpasses the Merits of the Suitor, if it was obtain'd upon wrong Suggestions, if it occasions Obloquy to the Government, or Discontent among the People, if the King's Debts are many and clamorous, if the Nation labours, at the same time as the Gift is made, under heavy Taxes; and if the Grant tends greatly to the Hurt and Impoverishment of the Crown (with all which Matters the Law presumes so great a Minister in the State to be acquainted) he is bound in Duty and by his Oath not to fix the Great Seal to the said Grant, but thereupon faithfully and impartially to advise the King: And Chancellors who have acted otherwise, and who, contrary to the Trust of their Office, have ventur'd to pass outrageous Gifts, *Doums Outrageuses*, as the Records call 'em, whereby the Crown has been impoverished,



poverish'd, have been heretofore question'd, impeach'd and attainted in Parliament.

THESE were the ancient Steps in Passing Grants from the Crown, which were afterwards inforc'd by a positive Law in the Reign of *Henry the Eighth*, a Prince jealous of the Regal Authority.

OUR Author then proceeds to shew the Methods taken by the Courtiers of former Times to defeat this excellent Establishment, and evade the Obligation of it.

THE Force of all these wholesome Laws, says he, was enervated by Clauses afterwards inserted into the Letters Patents, viz. *Ex certa Scientia, Mero Motu, & Gratia Speciali.* *Ex certa Scientia* became necessary for the Courtiers to defeat the 1<sup>st</sup> of *Henry IV.* where 'tis enacted, *That the true and express Value of the Thing to be granted, shall be inserted in the Letters Patents; otherwise the Grants to be void.* So that these Words suppose the King to have certain Knowledge, in every Circumstance, of the Thing he is to give away, which happens very rarely, to be the Case.

*Ex Mero Motu* imports the Honour and Bounty of the King, who rewards the Patentee for Merit without his Suit. These Words were introduced to obviate the 4<sup>th</sup> of *Henry IV.* whereby it was enacted, *That no Lands should be given, but to such as deserv'd them; and if any made Demands without Desert, he should be punished.*

AND

AND to the same Purpose were added the Words *Ex Gratia Speciali*; yet more to denote that the Gift proceeded merely from the King's Favour, and not at the Party's Sollicitation.

BUT besides all this, because antiently it seem'd a Fundamental, That Crown-Lands were not alienable, the Lawyers of Old Times, endeavour'd to secure and cover all by a Clause of *Non-Obstante* to be inserted in the Patents.

THESE Clauses of *Non-Obstante* were not known in our Original Constitution. *Matthew Paris* says, They grew rise in the Reign of *Henry III.* But they were more necessary after the 11th of *Henry IV.* when it was plainly and directly enacted, *That all Manner of Hereditaments which from thenceforward should fall into the Crown, should not be alienated, but remain to the King.* Which Law, the Author observes, appears to be supported by the Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, which in these Words, seems to condemn the Doctrine of *Non-Obstantes*; *That the pretended Power of suspending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, without Consent of Parliament, is illegal.*





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. LXVIII.

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— *Fas est & ab hoste doceri.* OVID.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 24. 1723-4.

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REVENGE was ever noted to be the Argument of a low and degenerate Mind ; and as such, condemn'd and despis'd by the Great and the Wise Men of former Ages. It was a Noble Sentence of *Plutarch*, That he had rather it should be said, there never was a Man called *Plutarch*, than that others should report he was prone to Anger and Revenge. This Excellent Author has written a little Treatise on purpose to shew how Men may profit by their *Adversaries*, and lays it down for a Rule, That the *Revilings* of an *Enemy* are more to be attended to, than the *Praises* of a *Friend*. We

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may

may reap great Advantages, *says he*, from being judg'd and censur'd by our Enemies. In this Case, *Antisthenes* spake incomparably well, *That if a Man would lead a secure and unblameable Life, it was necessary, that he should have either very ingenuous and honest Friends, or very bad Enemies*; because the first, by their kind Admonitions, and the latter by their Invectives, would equally contribute to his Benefit.

WHAT this great Man says of his Times, may certainly, with equal Justice, be spoken of the Times in which we live.

AS Friendship, *says he*, is now grown almost speechless, and hath lost off that Freedom it did once use; when Flattery obtains, and Friendly Counsel is forced to hold its Tongue. We must expect to hear Truth only from the Mouths of Enemies: And he that hath no Friend to reprove him when he acts amiss, must bear patiently the Rebukes of an Enemy, and thereby learn to amend the Errors of his Ways, considering seriously the Object at which these severe Censures aim, and not what the Person is who makes them. For as he who design'd the Death of *Prometheus the Thessalian*, instead of giving the fatal Blow, only launch'd a Swelling which he had, that menac'd approaching Death, and thereby preserved his Life: Just so may the harsh Reprehensions of Enemies cure some Distempers of the Mind, that were before either not known or neglected, though these angry Speeches, perhaps, originally proceed from Ill-will. But many, continues he, when they are accused of a Crime, do not consider whether they are guilty of the Matter alledg'd

ledg'd against them, but are rather solicitous whether the Accuser hath *any Thing more* to lay to their Charge. Like the *Combatants* in a *Match of Wrestling*, they take no Care to *wipe off* the *Dirt* that sticks upon them, but proceed to *besmear* themselves, and in their mutual Strugglings, still *wallow* into more *Dirt* and *Filthiness*. He further tells us,

THAT 'tis a Matter of greater Importance and Concernment to a Man, when he is lash'd by a Person he takes to be his Enemy, by living *Virtuously* to prevent and *avert* all Objections that may be made against his Life and Actions, than to scoure the Spots out of his Cloaths when they are shewn him. For if, *says he*, any object to us Crimes of which we are even *innocent*, we ought to inquire into the *Causes* and *Reasons* of such *Accusations*, lest unawares we should commit those Offences that might justly be attributed to us.

WHY should we not, *adds he*, take an Enemy for our Tutor, who will instruct us *Gratis* in those Things we knew not before? When *Hiero* was upbraid'd by his Enemy for having a stinking Breath, he demanded of his Wife, *Why she had not acquainted him with it?* She innocently answer'd, *She thought all Men's Breath had that Smell*. For an *Enemy* sees and understands more in Matters relating to us, than our *Friends* do, because, in *Plato's* Opinion, *Love is blind*, especially in discerning the Imperfections of the Object beloved.

THIS Great Author observes in the beginning of his Discourse, That thro' the long Succession of all Ages, down to his own Times, there scarce ever was a State or Kingdom, that hath not suffer'd under

*Envy, Hatred, Emulation, the Love of Strife; fierce and unruly Passions, says he, of all others the most productive of Enmity and Ill-will among Men. Nay, Familiarity itself, will at last breed Contempt, and the very Friendship of Men doth frequently draw them into Quarrels that prove sharp and sometimes implacable. This the wise Chilo well understood, who hearing another assert, That he had no Enemy, ask'd him very pertinently, Whether he had no Friend? In my Judgment therefore, adds he, it is absolutely necessary, that a Man, especially if he sit at the Helm, and be engag'd to steer the Government, should subscribe to Xenophon's Opinion in this Case; who hath set it down as a Maxim of the greatest Wisdom, For a Man to make the best Advantage he can of the Censures of the Person he takes to be his Adversary; and, That every Man endow'd with common Sense and Understanding, may, if he please, make his Opposites very useful and profitable to him.*

EVIL hath this peculiar Quality in it, That it dreads an Enemy more than a Friend. For this Cause, *Nasica*, when some thought the Roman Affairs were for ever establish'd in Peace and Safety, after they had destroy'd Carthage and enslav'd Greece, declared, *That even then they were in the greatest Danger of all, and most likely to be undone, because there were none left whom they might still fear.* To the same Purpose, *Onomademus*, a judicious and wise Man, being of the prevailing Side in a Civil Commotion at Chios, advis'd his Friends, *That they should not quite destroy or drive away those of the adverse Party; for fear they should begin to fall out among themselves, as soon as their Enemies were all out of the Way.*

IT is an eminent Piece of Humanity, *says he in another Place*, and a manifest Token of a Nature truly Generous, to put up the Affronts of an Enemy at that Time, when you have a fair Opportunity to revenge them. When *Cæsar* made an Edict, That the Statues of *Pompey*, which were tumbled down, should be rebuilt, and restored to their former Beauty and Magnificence, *Tully* tells him, That by setting up again *Pompey's* Statues, he had erected one for himself, an everlasting Monument of Praise and Honour to After-Ages.

AGAIN, *says he*, Diligence, Honesty, Greatness of Mind, Humanity, and Beneficence are Beautiful and Glorious Virtues that are too pure and great to be touch'd by an Ill-Tongue; They stop the Mouths of Back-biters, and command them to be silent. We must therefore make it our Business to be *Better* than other Men, if we would vex them that hate us. Agreeable to which is the excellent Answer of *Diogenes* to one that ask'd him, *How he might be reveng'd of his Enemy? The only way*, says he, *to gall and fret him effectually, is, for your self to appear a Good and Honest Man.*

THIS is the Excellent Method prescrib'd to Great Men by *Plutarch*, to stop the Mouths of their Enemies: For 'tis impossible to imagine, That a Man shall be guilty of all the vile Esornities with which the most unbounded *Ambition* and *Avarice* can inspire him to act against his Country, and yet think to escape uncensur'd by *Brave* and *Free Spirits*, because he happens at that Time, by the *Sport* or *Caprice*

cio of Fortune, or his own *Artifices* or *Chicaneries*, to be vested with the Power to trample on the Necks of his Fellow-Subjects.

I SHALL take the Liberty to add but one or two Sentences more from the same celebrated Author. If our *Enemies*, says he, arrive at high Places in the Courts of Princes, and by *Flattery* or *Frauds*, by *Bribery* or *Gifts*, we should not be troubled at it, but rather pleas'd in comparing our *undisguis'd* and *honest Way of Living* with theirs that is quite contrary. For *Plato*, who was a competent Judge, was of Opinion, *That Virtue was a more valuable Treasure than all the Riches above, or all the Mines under the Earth.*

SO *Solomon* believ'd, who was wont to say, *He would not exchange the Enjoyment of Virtue for the most popular Pleasures in Theatres, the softest Seats among Eunuchs, Concubines, and Noblemen. For nothing that is worth any one's Appetite, nothing that is handsome or becoming a Man, can proceed from that which is in it self Evil and Base.*

WERE the Grandees among the Moderns endow'd with the same Greatness of Soul, and if to promote the Good of Mankind was the predominant Passion with them, instead of expressing their Resentments against the Persons who confer their *Publick* or *Private Vices*, especially if this Liberty be taken with *Decency* and in a *Free Nation*, they would, by following the Advice of this Great Man, take the surest Method at once to *disappoint* their *Enemies*, to *confirm* their *Friends*, and to *establish* in themselves that Power which is too frequently the principal Aim of all their Actions.



## N<sup>o</sup> 68. *The TRUE BRITON.* 581

Actions. How easy is it for a *Great Man*, if he be an *Honest Man*, to make himself esteem'd and lov'd ! The Opportunities his Power puts into his Hands to oblige Thousands, and the Means wherewith he is furnish'd to do Good to Mankind, are so numerous and considerable, that one would be almost tempted to imagine, that it must proceed from a *Natural Propension to Wickedness*, if such a one fail'd of gaining the Affections of the *Generality* of his Fellow-Subjects.

BUT the narrow contracted Views of most Publick Ministers in former Times, have been the sole Occasion of their Miscarriage in this Point. They were wont to consider themselves as the Ministers of their Prince only, and that for their own Sakes ; and as if they had no other Relation to the *People*, than for the Sake of what they drew from their Wealth and Contributions, to support their own Grandeur and Luxury. Their whole Study was accordingly resolved into the single Point of endeavouring to support themselves at all Hazards, in the Power of answering these Views. And whenever we have had a Prince that has consulted his own *Ease* and *Prerogative*, more than the *Good* of his *Subjects*, such Persons, instead of being faithful Ministers and Watchmen for the Service of the State, have implicitly given themselves up to the Will of their Monarch, and rather than hazard his Displeasure and their Employment, have flatter'd him into the most pernicious and destructive Measures, when perhaps, on proper Representations, his Inclination and Intention meant nothing less ; as has been illustrated by many Instances in the Course of these Papers in divers precedent Reigns.

HOW greatly different was the Conduct of such Ministers, from what, nearer our own Times, is reported of the late Lord Somers. This Great Minister had the Honour to serve a *Wise* and *Gracious* Prince, who lov'd and valu'd him in the most distinguishing Manner. But when he perceiv'd that the Tide of Popular Prejudice ran strong against him, so that he apprehended the Affairs of his Royal Master might be detrimented, and the Publick Service suffer by his Continuance in Power, he desired his Sovereign to dismiss him from his great Employments, and to suffer him to retire, at least 'till the Prejudices conceived against him should subside: And thereby gave a *Glorious* Instance of a *Disinterested Zeal* for the Service of his *King* and *Country*, and an *Excellent Example* to all *succeeding* Statesmen in the like Cases; And as such I take the Liberty to recommend it, if it should ever be the Misfortune of any Great Man in future Times to fall under the like *Popular Odium*.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

---

N U M B. LXIX.

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*Hic murus abeneus esto,  
Nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa.* HOR.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 27. 1723-4.

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AN equal an impartial Distribution of Justice, or a constant and perpetual Desire of giving to every one their own, has ever been held, by the wiser sort, a sure and certain Sign of a well-regulated State or Kingdom. Every Man's own Experience confirms this Truth, that we daily see Merchants and Traders, possess'd of great Wealth and Riches, steering their Course to such Countries, where they find the *Subject* and his *Property* are best secur'd and defended. Upon these Grounds, many rich and wealthy Families have formerly settled in this Kingdom, whereby our Manufactures have been improv'd at Home, our Credit and Trade advanc'd Abroad.

BUT

BUT if ever the Case should happen to alter, we should suffer not only in the Opinion of Foreigners, but our own Traders and Citizens would make no difficulty to tell you, in Discourse of our Courts of Judicature, that a Suit in Law or Equity is the greatest Misfortune that can befall them, and ever ends in the Ruine and Destruction of them and their Families: Then the Fortune of our Country would be at Stake, and our flourishing Condition exchange'd for a *Babel* or a *Wilderness*. Such Reflections as these, must needs discourage rich Foreigners from coming to settle among us, and render the Subject in general very uneasy (for, first or last, it must be every Man's Case) to find how dilatory and expensive Law and Equity will become in Disputes relating to Property.

AN Act for the Amendment of the Law, &c. pass'd some Years since; but it had no other Effect, than setting the Officers together by the Ears about their Fees; and the Person who drew that Act, knew very well, that the Disorder and Grievances lay much deeper.

IN *Dominian's* Time, *Julius Agricola* was appointed Governor in *Great Britain*: Upon his Arrival in these Parts, finding all things in Disorder, he immediately resolv'd upon a Regulation; and, to render it more effectual, and convince People that he was in Earnest, being a Wife Man, he began, in the first Place, to make a thorough Reform in his own Family: which *Tacitus* highly commends, and says, is a Work of as great Difficulty to many, as to govern a Province. He never suffer'd his Freeman, or Secretaries

N<sup>o</sup> 69. *The TRUE BRITON.* 585

to intermeddle with Publick Affairs. Rules will be insignificant, unless the Judge, by his Practice and Authority, confirm and strengthen them. Those Rules will seem reasonable and easy to the Suitor, which the Judge himself observes and enforces.

OUR incomparable *Bacon*, in his Thoughts on *Judicature*, among the several Qualifications essential to a Judge, enumerates *Quickness of Conception*, and *Readiness of Dispatch*. And in his Speech from the Bench (which is truly Noble) he pronounces *Dispatch* to be the Life and Soul of Business. *Justice*, he says, *as best is bitter, but Delays make it sour*. An Author of vast Experience in Publick Affairs, has given his Opinion, That a *quick Condemnation* is more expedient for the Client, than a *favourable Judgment* after a *tedious Dependence*.

A G A I N, he gives us a lively Image to the same Purpose. *He who commences a Law-suit now-a-days*, says he, *does, as it were, plant a Palm-tree which he can never expect to gather the Fruit of*. And indeed; in a State where Suits are long and tedious, how can Neighbours ever live peaceably and in an amicable manner?

A N O T H E R Virtue is *Patience*, or a Willingness to hear what the Council have to offer in behalf of their Clients: That the Audience, or Standers-by, as well as Advocates, may be satisfy'd in the Justice of the Sentence pronounc'd; and this Liberty or Freedom allow'd to the Bar, frequently sends the Client away fully possess'd of an Opinion, that the Council has

has offer'd all that was proper on his part, and that Right was against him.

THIS Virtue will always be thought absolutely necessary, unless the Practice of little Emiffaries arise, by which there may happen a constant Demand of *Briefs* for the *Ease* and *Affiance* of the *Judge*. Such a Method, indeed, may make the Judge appear *inlightned*, and keep up his Character in the Eye of some People; but the Judicious, and they who have a clearer Insight into Things, will ever think it dangerous (especially considering the Unhappiness of our present *Parties*) for 'tis not every-body will allow the Judge to be impartial. Then it makes him impatient, in hearing a Council open, in a deliberate manner, what he knew before; tho' very often, what is offer'd may be very material. Nay, he may grow so uneasy at length, as to swell into an arbitrary Air, and take to himself the whole Conduct of the Cause. *This Part of the Evidence shall not be read: This is little to the purpose: Prove such a Point:* So that the Cause may take an unexpected Turn, to the great Damage of the Client, and Disappointment of the Counsel who advis'd the Suit, and hop'd a Decree in favour of their Opinion; and which might be to the Gentlemen of the Bar, a Direction for the future in Cases of the like Nature. For the Cause (to speak with Weight and Authority) ought to be left to the Management of the Counsel, and no Interruption given, unless to inform and satisfy the Conscience of the Court, and that too very seldom; or never, till the Counsel have done. To proceed in any other manner than what has been establish'd by Length of Time and Custom, and receiv'd the general Applause,  
and

and Approbation of Mankind, would induce Men of Penetration and refin'd Understandings, to imagine something *more* is intended ; and there never will be wanting some who may carry their Thoughts so far as to think (whatever they say) that such a Course is dangerous and destructive, and opens an Highway to *Corruption*.

A GENERAL *Severity* in a Judge has also been found very servicable ; for 'tis not only an infallible Proof of his own Integrity and Ability, but a real Service and Advantage to the poor Client. For *Fear* is an admirable Rein to curb and keep under a\* subtle crafty Counsel, or a greedy rapacious Officer.

IT is highly necessary for the Honour of a Court, that an Eye also be had to the unreasonable Demands of your *Poling Officers* and *Exactors of Fees*, who justify the common Resemblance of the Court of Justice, to the Bush, where-unto while the Sheep flies for Defence in bad Weather, he is sure to lose great part of his Fleece.

COMPLAINTS of this kind have been very common ; and the exalting of some, and depressing of others, will make the Ballance vary to that Degree, that, to the Wonder and Amazement of all, some will be in the highest State and Grandeur, others in the lowest Condition ; whole Families in Want ; Virtue on Foot, and Merit in Rags. 'Tis a melancholy Consideration ! — From such a Management as this, what Inconveniencies and Disorders will not flow ? The Course of the Court will be inverted ; *Delay*, that consuming Quality of *Property*, will come in Fashion :  
The

The fair Practicer, who values himself and depends upon his Reputation, notwithstanding all his Endeavours, will lose his Time and disappoint his Clients: The dejected Officers lose their just Fees, and the Insolent seize and grasp at all without the least Colour or Pretence; while Counsel of modest Assurance, well-educated, and fraught with Morals and Learning, with Eyes fix'd on the Ground, will confess their Shame and Dislike, and they of a sullen troubled Impudence look up, and be ready to justify any thing.

A GOOD Judge is a good Minister, and a clear and distinct Description of the one, may very well be allow'd of, and pass current for a just Resemblance of the other: For the *Aim* and *Practice* of every Man is a clear Proof and Indication of what he is. To prefer the Publick Good to Private Interest: To neglect one's own Affairs: To be solely intent and bent on, doing Good: To do as one would be done by: To render to every one his Due: To be content with a just Recompence: To affect the Good Will of all Men without Ostentation: And when the Clouds gather, and Storms beat, or Age approaches, to retreat and look back with Pleasure upon a well-spent Life, no ways sullied with Vice or Avarice; This is Earthly Happiness! This brings real Satisfaction and Content of Mind!

VIRTUOUS Men, in Wise Reigns, never pass neglected; for Riches and Honour are the Rewards due to an exalted Merit: And the repeated Favours of a Prince conferr'd on the Good, are some of the most effectual Means to discourage the Bad, and a sure  
Sign



Sign that his Aims are Noble, and tend to make  
Virtue shine, and Vice blush.

FAME has celebrated an *Halos* and a *Finch*.  
Out of the great Regard I shall ever retain and pay  
to injured Merit and Virtue, I cannot here but do  
Justice to the Memory of that excellent Chancellor,  
and charge with Partiality, a *Modern Historian*, who  
has under-wrote his Character, and represented him  
in faint and unbecoming Colours. His Extraction was  
noble, his Education liberal, his Bent lay to the Law.  
What Success he had in that respect, appears by the  
eminent Stations he enjoy'd. While *Attorney*, he  
was no-ways honour'd by his Office, but was an Ho-  
nour to it: For he never lessen'd the Business and Re-  
putation of *one Place*, to advance *to another*. He  
came always attended to the Hall suitable to his Dig-  
nity, and the greatest Respect and Deference were  
ever paid him, for indeed he added Lustre and Grace  
to the Place he fill'd. When he advanc'd to the Bench,  
he generously gave away all the Employments under  
him, and oblig'd such Officers as could bear it, to at-  
tend in their Coaches. He had no Pimps, Poets, and  
Buffoons to administer to Pleasure or Flattery. His  
Train was made up of Gentlemen of Figure, Men of  
Estates, Barristers at Law, and such as had Reputa-  
tions in their Profession, and were suitable and be-  
coming to high a Station. His Decrees were pro-  
nounc'd with the greatest Solemnity and Gravity:  
No Man's ever were in higher Esteem, had more  
Weight, or carry greater Authority at this very Day  
than his do. He was a great *Refuser*, but never made  
use of nice *Distinctions* to prejudice *Truth*, or colour  
over what deserves the worst of Names. He frequent-

ly declared, He sat there to do Justice, and as long as his Majesty was pleas'd to continue him on that Seat, he would do it by the Help of God, impartially to all; to the Officer as well as the Suitor. If the Officer exceeded his just Fees, or play'd Tricks with the Client, he would fine or punish him severely; at the same time, the Trouble and Attendance of the Officer (he thought) justly entitl'd him to his Fees. His Reprimands were mix'd with *Sweetness* and *Severity*, and so pointed as to *correct*, not *confound* the Counsel. He was indeed difficult of Access, but when once you had Admittance, you found nothing from him but what was Fair, Just, and Honourable; so that he had the Happiness to send most People away with Pleasure and Satisfaction. *Dispatch* was the Duty he was most intent upon, as a Matter that greatly concern'd the Honour of the Court: And upon a Debate relating to a Cause that had been upwards of Thirty Years in Court, he immediately appointed a Day for the Hearing of it, and declared, He would sit Five or Six Days together, but he would rid the Court of so great a Scandal and Ignominy. His Oratory was Manly, Strong and Just; *Demosthenes* and *Cicero* were his Favourite Authors, and his own Compositions are the best Proof that can be given of his admirable way of imitating those great and excellent Orators. I have heard the judicious Mr. *Lock*, in Discourse, say, That in his Opinion, in some of his Lordship's Speeches, the Language was the Correctest, and his Composition the most compleat he ever met with in the *English* Tongue. His Tables were not only handsome, but magnificent; and suitable to his Quality and Dignity. When, on

at a certain Occasion, they were reduc'd; and there was less Plenty and Splendor at his Board than usual; his Lordship could not forbear to say (but with the greatest Tenderness) that the Provision was not sufficient; and what was becoming his Rank and Office.

THE Four Thousand, a Year that constantly attended the Seals for Hospitality, Port, and Dignity, after his Lordship had receiv'd it a considerable Time, he declin'd to accept any longer: declaring; That had he held the Seals but a *short time*, he would have thought himself justly intitled to it for *Life*, to have made Amends for the Time, Expence and Trouble he had been at to qualify himself for his Profession (to follow which he was render'd incapable by being made Keeper) but seeing his Majesty, through his great Goodness to him more than his own Merit and Desert, had been graciously pleas'd to continue the Seals to him longer than he could have expected; he could not, *in Conscience*, take it; being very sensible, that his Majesty at that Time might have need of it *in his own Family*. What can be greater than this Moderation in the highest Prosperity, which *Tacitus* calls, *Bounding one's Desires with Discretion*; and says, *is the most difficult Thing to attain to in Life*?

THAT he did not stoop to mean Compliances us'd at Court, is evident from the remarkable Story of the Earl of *Danby*. The Impeachment was violent, and carried on with the utmost Fury. When the King sent for the Ch — r. and commanded him to put the Seals to a Pardon ready prepar'd, the Ch — r remon- strated, with his usual Gravity, That it was contrary

to Law to Pardon any Subject while under an Impeachment: That it would be the Undoing of him and his Family; and therefore, he hop'd his Majesty would excuse him. The King, considering the Integrity of the Man, which was Clear, Entire and Uniform, call'd for the Seals, order'd the Officer to do his Duty, and afterwards return'd him back the Seals with this Compliment; *Take them, my Lord, I know not where to bestow them better.*

IN my solitary Hours, surveying this Great Man, I have often been induc'd to believe, he was so Good that he could not do Ill. His Motto was, *Nulla potest esse culpa*, and in my Conscience he answer'd it in every Respect, and made it good in the fullest Sense. One of his greatest Enemies (if such a Man could have Enemies) in his cooler Thoughts, when Prejudice was laid aside, and Envy began to slumber, has been heard to say, *That in Truth he must own the Lord Ch ——— N ——— was a Man of great Virtue and Piety.*

THERE may have been Persons on the Bench of more extensive Knowledge and greater Capacities, but as to the Duty and faithful Discharge of the Office, his Lordship never had a Superior, and I am afraid there will be but few Equals. His Morals were as chaste as his Writings, and they who have pretended to criticize the one, could never find the least Fault with the other. His Conversation was always with the greatest Deference to Decency and good Manners. He was ever on his Guard to parry the Thrusts of witty Courtiers, and Men of Pleasantry. A good Name, he thought, the most valuable Thing in Life,  
and,

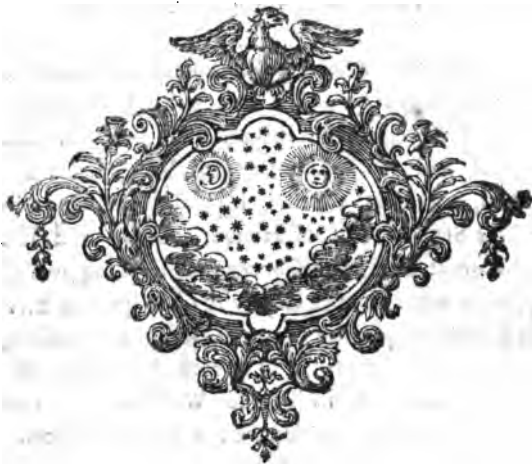
N<sup>o</sup> 69. *The TRUE BRITON.* 593

and that on which Virtue and Honour depended : For he that flights the one, can never have any Value for the other : 'Tis better to be Unborn, than Ill-bred ; and out of Life, than Profligate and Abandon'd.

TO figure this Great and Inestimable Man aright, and to paint him in his true Colours; and with some Warmth of Imagination, but still with the greatest Submission to strict Justice ; I would seat him on his *Throne* with a Ray of Glory about his Head, his *Ermines* without Spot or Blemish, his *Ballance* in his Right Hand, *Mercy* on his Left, *Splendor* and *Brightness* at his Feet, and his Tongue dispensing Truths, Goodness, Virtue and Justice to Mankind.

UPON the whole, to compleat his Character in a private Capacity : He was a kind Husband and tender Father, a true Friend and generous Master, Liberal and Compassionate to All. Thus accomplish'd, and thus adorn'd, he ended his Days in the highest Station, full of Honour, Glory and Riches, to the great Grief and Concern of his King and Country, who were at once depriv'd of so great a Blessing. His Entrance upon the Stage of Business was with great Applause, and; what is very rare, his going off was with greater. If to pursue Wisdom, to execute Justice, to intreat of Heaven a constant Serenity of Mind, and a Spirit to discern and judge uprightly of the Laws of God and Man, can merit Applause, doubtless the Memory of this Great Man will be preserv'd with the Blessings and Praises of Posterity. Works of *Marble* and *Brass* are almost as frail and mortal as Men ; but the Virtues of the Mind may be

properly called *one's own*, and cannot be taken away.  
 By Admiration rather than temporary Praises, let us  
 extol him, and, as far as Nature is capable, by our  
 Imitation. Whatever we love or admire in N——  
 remains, and will continue in the Minds of Men as  
 long as Time shall last. When many of the Greatest,  
 below the Dignity of Notice, are buried in Oblivion,  
 N—— shall survive in Fame.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. LXX.

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*O clives! clives! quærenda pecunia primum est;  
Virtus post nummos.* ————— H O R.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31. 1723-4.

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HERE is nothing to be so much lamented. as the present great and visible Decay of Publick Spirit. Every Age has produced too many Instances of this Nature; and the Publick has never been free from the Attempts of narrow-minded Men, who have made it their principal View to enrich themselves at the Expence of their Country; But Examples of the Justice and Vengeance of injur'd Nations have been as frequent as such Attempts, and in the Course of these Papers we have produced numberless Instances of this kind, which we need not now repeat.

Qq 3

HORACE

*HORACE* complains, that in his Days, in the *Mugustan* Age, when the *Roman* Empire was govern'd by a Wife and Glorious Prince, they felt a very great Decay both of Manners and Publick Spirit: And as the Age in which he lived was more wicked than the preceding, so, in all likelihood, the following would be still worse than that. This was accordingly fatally verified; for the *Romans* having imbib'd the Vices and Luxury of the Nations they had by means of ~~those very~~ Vices conquer'd, were at last so effeminated and deprav'd, that they became an easy Prey to the barbarous Nations, which, like an Inundation, pour'd in upon them from all Quarters, and laid in Ruins that mighty Empire which had so long triumph'd over the known World.

AS for us of the present Times, we seem to be sunk into the very Dregs of the *Iron Age*, and were it not for some *shining Examples* plac'd by the Wisdom of the Crown in the *Meridian of Power*, that dispense around them the benign Influences of Generosity, Candor, Affability, Disinterestedness, Contempt of empty Honours, and in fine, all the Virtues that ever center'd in Great Ministers, we should hardly have remaining among us the least Traces of *Publick Spirit*. The People in general (with great Concern I speak it!) seem to be lost to all Sense of National Good; yea, so far abandon'd, that the bright Examples of our *Grandeecs*, have been hitherto insufficient to restore to us even the *faint Idea* of our past Glory, and that Greatness of Soul, which was wont to adorn the *British* Nation, and which has so long preserv'd us

the



the only free People on Earth, while our Neighbours all around us, are groaning in Chains and Bondage.

WHAT miserable Effects may in Time be produced from this Degeneracy, we cannot sufficiently apprehend. We must not expect to be always blest with such a Glorious Set of Ministers. They will not be always striving with the *narrow Views* and *Perverseness* of an untoward Generation: Nor can it be expected that we shall be always so happy as to find, that the very Gentlemen who have it most in their Power to aggrandize themselves, and their Posterity, shou'd be the only Persons in the Kingdom in whom *Self Denyal*, and all the Great Virtues of Publick Life are conspicuous.

WHAT have led me into these Reflections, are Two Letters I have received, the one partly of a Publick, the other of a more Private Concern, relating to the Attempts and Narrow Views of Private Subjects, which seem calculated to enrich themselves at the Expence of the Publick.

THE first relates to a certain Patent, which the Representatives of a whole Nation have thought fit to petition against in the strongest manner. This is a tender Point, and as it lies before our Superiors in a proper manner, we shall not presume to intermeddle with it at present, and our Friend who styles himself THE ALCHEMIST, must therefore excuse us for declining to insert his Letter. And we shall dismiss the Subject for this Time, with the following Story taken *Verbatim* from *Davenant on Resumptions*, P. 400, not doubting but

some good Minister, like *Ximenes*, will rise up, to check the Avarice of particular Men wheresoever it may be found.

"BEFORE the Greatness of Cardinal *Ximenes* was fully establish'd, seeing a very disadvantageous Farm of the Silks of *Granada* let for Ten Years, by the Advice of Don *Manuel* the Treasurer, to which the King had consented, and which was offer'd at Council to be seal'd, he took the Charter, and tore it publickly (of which the Pieces are kept among the Records of *Arcaba*, as a Memorial of this Minister's Courage and Integrity) saying, *Salto, Don Manuel, were you not my very good Friend, the King should cause your Head to be taken off: Dare you make Grants so prejudicial to the State?* Nor did *Philip* the First, adds my Author, take it ill, that his own and his Favourite's Doings were thus revoked."

I MUST add, That I insert this Piece of History only as a Monument of the Integrity and Courage of that great Cardinal; for it cannot be a Parallel Case, because the *Treasurer* of *Spain* was concern'd in the former, whereas no other Person but a private and (before) unnoted Gentleman has any apparent Concern in the latter.

THE other Letter is dated from *Cadiz*, and signed, *The English Factory*: and as the Affair of which it treats, seems to be of Weight, and may be attended with affecting Consequences to the *British* Trade and Commerce, we cannot refuse to give it a Place in the  
TRUE

TRUE BRITON, in the very Words of the Writer.

Cadix, 6. January, 1724.

S I R,

**H**EARING you've exerted your self, in representing the Grievances of our Dear Country in general, we trouble you with a particular Hardship on Trade, hoping you'll think it worth your Notice.

THE *South-Sea Company*, by an Article in the last Peace with *Spain*, have Liberty to import Pieces of Eight and other Goods from the *South-Seas*, which the rest of the *English* Subjects are excluded from; Upon this, the Gentlemen of the *English Factories* Here, in *Bilboa*, and Elsewhere, having considerable Sums of Money in Pieces of Eight there, directed our Correspondents to Ship very considerable Sums for *London*. Accordingly they applyed to the Factors of the *South-Sea Company* for Leave to make use of their Names in shipping the said Money; which they absolutely refused, unless it were consigned to the Sub-Governor of the *South-Sea Company*, or his Brother or Nephew. They were answer'd, Their Directions were to consign the Money to Sir J. W. and others, and that they cou'd not warrant acting contrary to their Orders; but that they'd advise their Friends of what they insisted on. Afterwards they applied to the *Spanish* Officers to connive at their shipping the Money; and having prevailed, the *South Sea Company's Factors* wou'd not allow them to ship the Money under the beforementioned Condition;

all

all which they advising us of, we gave positive Directions rather to send our Money to *Spain*, than trust a *South-Sea Director* with it.

I MUST observe to you, the Pieces of Eight being consigned to a particular *South-Sea Director*, is of no more Advantage to the Company, than if it were consigned to a mere Stranger, it only paying Freight in both Cases (and there may be a Possibility of Defrauding the Company of the said Benefit in the former Case) the Director or other Person it's consigned to, having the Benefit of Half *per Cent.* Commission, besides the Use of the Money, which the Sub-Governor, in this Case, would engross to himself; This, we're told, is forbid as a *Monopoly* by the *Laws of England*.

THE greatest Advantage *England* has by the *Spanish Trade*, arises from the vast Quantities of Silver sent from thence, and kept in their Correspondents Hands in *London*, thinking it more secure there; than any where else. Pieces of Eight being a Merchandize so easily disposed of, are only to be consigned to a Person very well known to the Owner, which, if we're not allowed, we'll continue our Money in *Spain*, rather than trust them we don't know.

OBSERVE, the Money being consigned to a Director or other particular Person, he only is accountable for it, from the Time it's landed, the Company being then discharged of it.

N<sup>o</sup> 70. *The* TRUE BRITON. 603

WE beg you'll represent the fatal Consequences that must inevitably attend private Persons inverting the Law, and rendering Publick Faith subservient to their insatiable Avarice; for by it *England* loses the Benefit of the vast Quantities of Silver, that would be imported, if we could gain Liberty to put our Money into such Hands as we can trust.

BY taking notice of this, in a proper manner, you'll infinitely oblige those, who, upon all Occasions, will acknowledge it.

*The* ENGLISH FACTORY.



THE



THE  
TRUE BRITON.

N U M B. LXXI.

*Impiger extremos currit mercator ad Indos,  
Per mare pauperiem fugiens, per saxa, per ignis. HOR.  
Lesâ pudicitia est nullâ reparabilis arte. OVID.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3. 1723-4.



THE Timing of the subsequent Piece obliges us to insert the following Letter as it came to our Hands last Saturday, tho' it must be allow'd, That the Subject (as the Gentleman who wrote it observes) is capable of being more amply expatiated on, and we could wish it had been done by the same Hand.

To the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,

THE Election for Sub-Governor of the South-Sea Company being appointed for Monday next, you can't do a more acceptable Piece of Service to  
your

your Country in general, or the Proprietors in particular, than to lay before them some Rules whereby to judge of the Qualifications of the Candidates for this Employment. 'Tis now become an Office of great Power, as well as Profit. The Money'd Companies have a considerable Influence upon the Affairs of the City, and if ever we should have the Misfortune to have a corrupt Ministry, who should make the Managers of this Company their Tools, they would have a large Share in Destroying the Liberties of the People,

THE present Sub-Governor got into the Office under great *Troubles and Difficulties*, as he himself expresses it, but in the Space of a very few Years he has had the Dexterity to raise himself to a Pitch of Wealth equal to many of his Predecessors. The Methods to do this may not appear so easy to those who are unacquainted with their Managements. I shall mention but one out of a great many that might be named. The Company receive the Interest of their Fund Weekly, tho' the Dividends are paid but Half-yearly. The Proprietors have not a Shilling Benefit from these Payments, but it lies ready for the Managing Directors to lay it out in the Purchase of their Bonds at a Discount, in buying Stock upon the Whisper of a State Secret, or any other private Use they please to make of it. The Bonds, amounting to several Millions, were, for a great while together, at between 15 and 20 *per Cent.* Discount, and all of a sudden were up again to near *Par*. The Receipts from the *Exchequer* at this Time were 3500 *l.* a Week. But the Sub-Governor and a few of his Creatures have greatly extended their Influence and

Profit

Profit by drawing the Company into Trade. The Commanders of their Ships, Super-cargoes, and other Officers, are appointed by the Directors alone, (for the Proprietors are not consulted) These Officers would think themselves but very ill paid for their Voyage, if they receive only the whole Profit the Company gain by it. No, they would immediately tell you, They don't go abroad to take the Air. This, Sir, is the fashionable Term to let you into the Design they are sent upon; and if one were to guess from the Costly Furniture and Magnificent Retinue these Gentry carry with them, their Prospect must be very certain. Perhaps all this is intended for the Service of the Company; It may be proper to strike an Awe into their Dealers, and to appear the Ambassadors of some Powerful Wealthy State, rather than the Under-Servants of *Merchants Trading to the South-Seas.*

BUT 'twere endless to mention the Instances in which the Proprietors may be wickedly abused and cheated. Nothing, Sir, that's said here is intended to be published, but only to supply you with Hints to go upon. But the insolent Behaviour of their Sub-Governor is never to be forgot. He was pleased to tell them very plainly, That he would obey no Orders he did not like, which was little less than pretending to overturn at once the Rights the Proprietors claim from their Charter. His Words are as follow.

UPON this Occasion we cannot avoid saying thus much, That altho' 'tis our general Duty to follow your Orders, in doing which we shall ever be legally justified;

etc



*we should nevertheless, in a moral Sense, betray our Trust, by implicitly putting in Execution Orders that really may be, or which to our Judgment, upon mature Deliberation, may seem to be, improper.*

ABOUT which Time a Letter was publish'd, and directed to that Gentleman, which animadverted on this part of his Speech, and among other Passages worthy Notice, has the following.

SIR, You have chosen such proper Words to convey your Sentiments in, that I can't think your Meaning would have been at all plainer, if you had said, That a General Court has no Power to give any Orders that you and your Brethren don't like; or if they should presume to do so, you are bound in Conscience to take no Notice of them. For, Sir, You have guarded against all possible Mistake of your Meaning, by saying, you are bound not to execute, not such Orders only *as really may be, but such as to your Judgment shall seem to be, improper.*

THE Paragraph, Sir, I have quoted from you, is the best Explanation of your Words and Actions, ever since you have had the Honour to fill that Chair.

TILL now we have been at a loss how to understand you in what you formerly told the Court; *You (the Directors) were the Slaves of the Company.* And we know now by what Rule you conducted your self, when in the same Court you declared with great Bravery, and even Defiance, *That let the Resentment be what it would, or fall where it would,*

• *would, you would not put the previous Question moved*  
 • *for in Form, by one you did not like; tho' you had*  
 • *before encouraged the putting a previous Question*  
 • *when moved for by a noble Lord, whom, by the*  
 • *way, you seem very willing to Copy after in Military*  
 • *Discipline.' And so he proceeds to enumerate many*  
 • *other Instances of the like Nature, for which I refer*  
 • *you to the Paper I send inclus'd.*

THE Choice, Sir, of this Officer is a Matter of Importance. 'Twere a Jest to draw *Whig* and *Tory* into the Dispute. The *Honest Men* of *Both Sides*, that have a Concern for their Property, or the Privileges they claim, should unite in the Choice of a Sub-Governor that's most likely to preserve both.

I am, Sir,

*Your Humble Servant,*

*W. A.*

WE shall present our Readers with the following Letter from a Lady, who seems to have but too much Reason to exclaim against a Diversion that may be of the most pernicious Consequence to Youth; and especially of the Fair Sex; as it seems to have a natural Tendency to poison and debauch the Morals of the *British* Gentry, and throws down and levels all Orders and Distinctions, coupling the Nobleman with the Peasant, the Dutchess with the Groom, the fine Ladies with the most abandon'd and profligate Rakes, and subjects the Greatest to the Attacks of the Meanest Russian, who wants not Resolution and Impudence. *Luxury* and *Intemperance* have ever been the For-

tunners



seasonable Hours ; The promiscuous Company ; The Unbounded Freedoms of the Place ; The inspiring Liquors, and tempting Viands, and the unbridled Liberties of Converse, are strange Temptations, and fit for very few who are not abandon'd to the Luxuries of a most degenerate Age, and cannot act a Part in the blackest and most criminal Parts of corrupted Life.

THE Ladies should consider, that 'tis nothing but *strict Virtue*, and a *decent Reservedness*, that keeps their Sex from falling into Contempt ; and they ought not to lay aside an Appearance that gains them Respect, and keeps in Awe Mankind, who are ever designing on their Virtue, to take up one, that exposes them to the rough Address of every sordid Fellow.

THE Freedoms of a *Masquerade* are but very indifferent Methods of initiating fine young Ladies into Conversation, when they have taken Leave of their Governesses, and find themselves freed from those strict Rules of Virtue and Morality, which are too apt to sit uneasy on the Gay and the Youthful Part of the Sex, which therefore is more susceptible of Impressions of a contrary Nature. Thus prepar'd, and falling into the Ribaldries of a *Masquerade*, what Improvement may not be expected from the Minds of ductile Youth ? *Excessive Liberties* naturally bring on *Excessive Restraints* ; and 'twill be found proper in Time, perhaps, to immure the Sex as in *Turkey*, and other Parts, and to confine those Bodies, whose Minds are too apt to be gadding after such enormous Diversions.

THE Sex had so many Vanities and Foibles before, that *Celibacy* was never so common, nor *Marriage* more despis'd; and in a while, the sober Part of Mankind will unanimously disclaim the Tie that gives them a Chance so unequal to their Merits, and exposes their Beds to the Intrigues and Pollutions of abandon'd Rakes and Jilting Coquettes; and then the Sex may thank themselves for becoming a Prey, both Persons and Fortunes, for want of better Offers, to the harden'd Attempts of *Irisb* Impudence, whose natural Talent is *Masquerading* in every Part of Life. You will excuse me this Warmth of Expression, which is owing to the utter Ruin of a dear Kinswoman, whose ample Fortunes and blooming Beauties are destroy'd and blasted by successful Villainy and corroding Diseases, the Consequences of an Intrigue that began *last Masquerading Time*. If you please to insert this Letter, you will oblige many of your Female Country Readers, and in particular,

*Your Humble Servant,*

VIOLETTE.





THE  
TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. LXXII.

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————— *Mutato nomine de te*  
*Fabula narratur.* —————

H O R.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7. 1723-4

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To the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



N Reading over Bishop *Burnet's* Book, I took particular Notice of the Relation he gives of the Proceedings against the Earl of *Clarendon* in the Reign of King *Charles II.* and as those Proceedings seem to be the Precedent on which the Bill for banishing the late Bishop of *Rockester* was founded ; and as his Account thereof, as well as of the Earl, and those engag'd against him, is somewhat remarkable, I beg Leave to give it you in the Bishop's own Words,

THE

THE Earl of CLARENDON was bred to the Law: He was a good Chancellor, only a little too rough, but he was very impartial in the Administration of Justice: He had too much Levity in his Wit, and did not always observe the *Decorum* of his Post. He was high, and was apt to reject those who addressed themselves to him, with too much Contempt. He was indefatigable in Business, tho' the Gout did often disable him. He resolved not to stretch the Prerogative beyond what it was before the Wars, and would neither set aside the *Position of Right*, nor endeavour to raise the Courts of the *Star Chamber*, or the *High Commission Court*, which could have been easily done, if he had set about it. He took care of all the Acts relating to Property, or the just Limitation of the Prerogative, such as the *Habeas Corpus Act*, &c. He relied upon his own Integrity; for when the Parliament were first set on to destroy him, some of his Friends went to him, and told him, many were at work to find out Matter of Accusation against him: That he best knew what could be brought against him with any Truth; for Falsehood was infinite, and could not be guessed at: They therefore desired he would trust some of them with what might break out; since, probably, nothing could lie concealed against so strict a Search. Upon that he told them, That if in Matters of Justice, or in any Negotiations Abroad, he had ever received a Farthing, he gave them leave to disown all Friendship for him. He had never taken any thing by virtue of his Office, but that which his Predecessors claimed as a Right. But now Hue-and-Cry were sent out against him, and all Persons who had heard him

say any thing that could bear an ill Construction, were examined. Some thought they had Matters of great Weight against him ; and when they were told, These would not amount to High-Treason, they desired to know, What would amount to it ? When 23 Articles were brought against him, into the House of Commons, the next Day he desired his Son to acquaint the House, That he hearing what Articles were brought against him, did, in order to the Dispatch of the Business, desire, that those who knew best what their Evidence was, would single out any one of the Articles that they thought could be best proved ; and if they could prove that, he would submit to the Censure due upon them all. But those who had the Secret of this in their Hands refused it, because they knew they could make nothing of it.

At length a Bill was brought in banishing him the King's Dominions, under Pain of Treason. And it was made Treason to correspond with him without Leave from the King. But this Act did not pass without much Opposition. The Part the King had acted in this Matter came to be known, and was much censured, as there was just Cause for it. The Vehemence which he shewed in this whole Matter was imputed by many to very different Causes. Those who knew him best, but esteemed him least, said, That all the Indignation that appeared in him on this Head, was founded on no Reason at all ; but was an Effect of that Easiness, or rather Laziness of Nature, that made him comply with every Person that had the greatest Credit with him. The Mistress, and the whole Bed-Chamber were perpetually railing at him.

This,



This, by a sort of Infection, possessed the King, who, without giving himself the Trouble of much thinking, did commonly go into any Thing that was at the present Time the easiest, without considering what might, at any other Time, follow on it.

IN the House of Commons, Sir THOMAS OSBORNE was the most furious Enemy the Earl had. He was at the Head of the Treasury many Years, and was thought to be a very corrupt Man, having been more than once expressly charged in Parliament with Bribery and Corruption. *Burnet* says of him, He was a Gentleman of *Yorkshire*, whose Estate was much sunk. He was a very plausible Speaker; but too copious, and could not easily make an End of his Discourse. He had opposed the Court much, and was one of Lord *Clarendon's* bitterest Enemies. He gave himself great Liberties in Discourse, and did not seem to have any Regard to Truth, or so much as to the Appearances of it, and was an implacable Enemy. But he had a peculiar Way to make his Friends depend on him, and to believe he was true to them. He was a positive and undertaking Man; so he gave the King great Ease, by assuring him, All Things would go according to his Mind in the next Sessions of Parliament; and when his Hopes failed him, he had always some Excuse ready to put the Miscarriage upon; and by this means he got into the highest Degree of Confidence with the King, and maintain'd it the longest of any that ever serv'd him. — He rais'd all his Creatures in the Church, and got all Men turned out of their Places that did not intirely depend on him. When he wanted to carry a Point in the House of Commons, he brought up all

his Creatures, the Aged and Infirm not excepted. Once thinking he had there a clear Majority, he got the King to send a Message to the House, desiring an Additional Revenue of 300,000 l. during Life. This set the House all in a Flame; so the Thing was, upon one Debate, rejected, without a Division. He was much censur'd for this Rash Attempt, which discover'd the Designs of the Court too bare-fac'd; for it was then generally believed, that the Design was to keep up and model the Army now rais'd, 'till the Nation should be brought under a Military Government; and the Opinion of this prevail'd so, that he became the most hated Minister that had ever been about the King.

**BENNET** Earl of **ARLINGTON**, then One of the Principal Secretaries of State, was a fast Friend of *Osborne's*, and pursued Lord *Clarendon* with the same Fury in the House of Lords, as *Osborne* had done in the House of Commons. He was a Man that stuck at nothing, and was ashamed of nothing. He was neither loved nor trusted by any Man, or any Side, and seem'd to have no Regard to Common Decencies. He was withal, a dull, heavy, stiff, proud, positive, intractable, and morose Man, and might well be called an **ENEMY TO HIS COUNTRY**, from his Religion, and his Zeal for Arbitrary Power. *Burnet* principally takes Notice of him, as a Person who had the Management of the King's Mistress, and that all the Earl of *Clarendon's* Enemies came about him.

**NEXT** to these was the Earl of **LAUDERDALE**. He had been a Commander in some of the Armies that were

were raised during the Civil Wars. He was a *Scotch man* by Birth ; but whether his Original was *Irish* or *Scotch*, I have not been able to learn. *Burnet* says of him, that he was a very big Man, his Hair red, hanging oddly about him. His Tongue was too big for his Mouth, which made him bedew all that he talked to. His whole Manner was rough and boisterous, and very unfit for a Court. He was a Man of a blundering Understanding, haughty beyond all Expression, abject to those he must stoop to, but imperious to all others : He had such a Violence of Passion that carried him often to Fits like Madness, in which he had no Temper. If he took a Thing wrong, it was a vain Thing to study to convince him : That would rather provoke him to swear he would never be of another Mind. He was to be let alone, and perhaps he would have forgot what he had said, and come about of his own accord. He was one of the coldest of Friends, and the violentest of Enemies. He at first seemed to despise Wealth, but he afterwards delivered himself up to Sensuality and Luxury, and by that Means he run into a vast Expence, and stuck at nothing that was necessary to support it. His Behaviour was liker the Cruelty of an Inquisition, than the Legality of Justice. With all this, he was a *Presbyterian*, and hated King *Charles I.* and his Party to his Death.

BUT the most remarkable was ANTHONY ASHLEY COOPER. He was Lord Chancellor in that Reign, and was the principal Fomentor of all the Troubles and Disturbances that happened. *Burnet* says of him, that his Character was of a very extraordinary Com-

posi-

position. He began to make a considerable Figure very early. Before he was Twenty, he came into the House of Commons, and was of the King's Side ; but afterwards he forsook that Side, and turned to the Parliament. He had a wonderful Faculty in speaking to a popular Assembly, and could mix both the facetious and the serious Way of Arguing very agreeably. He had a particular Talent to make others trust to his Judgment, and depend on it ; and he brought over so many to a Submission to his Opinion, that hardly any Man was equal to him in the Art of governing Parties, and of making himself the Head of them. He was, as to Religion, a *Deist* at best : He had a general Knowledge of the slight Parts of Learning, but understood little to the bottom ; so he triumphed in a rambling way of Talking, but argued slightly when he was held close to any Point : He had such an extravagant Vanity in setting himself out, that it was very disagreeable : His Strength lay in his Knowledge of *England*, and of all the considerable Men in it. He understood well the Size of their Understandings, and their Tempers ; and he knew how to apply himself to them so dexterously, that tho' by his changing Sides so often it was very visible how little he was to be depended on, yet he was to the last much trusted by all the discontented Party : He was not ashamed to reckon up the many Turns he had made ; and he valued himself on the doing it at the properest Season, and in the best Manner. This he did with so much Vanity, and so little Discretion, that he lost many by it : And his Reputation was at last run so low, that he could not have held much longer, had he not died in good Time, either for his Family, or for his Party : The  
former

N<sup>o</sup> 72. *The TRUE BRITON.* 617

former would have been ruined, if he had not saved it by betraying the latter.

THE Duke of *BUCKINGHAM* and the Earl of *BRISTOL* were likewise the Earl's great Enemies; but the Account of them wou'd exceed the Limits of your Paper: I therefore beg Leave to refer it to another Opportunity.

*I am, Yours,*

J. G.



*THE TRUE BRITON* having not been published for the Monday following, this Publick Notice was given thereof in the News-Papers for that Day.

MONDAY, *February 10.* 1723-4.

THIS is to inform the Publick, That the *TRUE BRITON* which was to have been published this Day, for some particular Reasons, will not come out 'till *Friday* next.



T H E



THE  
TRUE BRITON.

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N U M B. LXXIII.

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*Scilicet in vulgus manant exempla regentum.*

CLAUD.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14. 1723-4

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To the Author of the TRUE BRITON.

S I R,



THINK myself intitled to no small Share of your Favour; and I am persuaded you will think so too, as soon as I shall have acquainted you with my Merits.

KNOW THEN, That besides other good Qualities necessary to a TRUE BRITON, which in Decency I cannot mention myself, I have a most profound Veneration for the Laws of our Land: I believe,

N<sup>o</sup> 73. *The TRUE BRITON.* 619

believe I may say, the Greatest of any Man in the Kingdom. I am no Lawyer, never gain'd Six-pence by the Law, nor ever expect it; and yet the Perusal of them is my chief Entertainment: I can find in them not only *Justice* and *Wisdom*, but *Oratory*, *Wit* and *Humour*. Accordingly, I have given Orders to my Bookseller, the Moment a new Act comes out, to send it me; and I read it with the same Eagerness and Delight, with which Men of a different Taste read a fine new Play.

AS I often meet with many Words in an Act, that seem to have the same Signification, you cannot imagine how agreeably I puzzle myself to find out some *Distinction*: and when sometimes I do attain that Happiness, the Joy of a *Mathematician* cannot be more exquisite, when he has unravell'd a difficult *Problem*. I seldom lay the Act out of my Hands, 'till I am intirely Master of it; and after that, you may see me walk about my Room, repeating some of the finest Passages, with a Theatrical Tone and Gesture.

THESE are the *Publick Acts* that are so much in my Favour; not but that *Private Acts* have also their Charms; and *Bills of Naturalization*, or, *To empower any Man to sell his Estate*, or, *To change his Name*, are the Diversion of my looser Hours, when I would unbend my Thoughts from the great Attention with which I pore over those that are *Publick*.

I MAY safely say, No Study, no Library in the Land can shew so choice a Collection of *Votes* as I can: I have many Folio's of them, neatly Bound and  
Gilt,

Gilt, and inscribed *BRITISH WISDOM*. — Happy *Britannia*! Thou art a Beautiful, Fruitful Matron: The *Laws* are thy *Children*, thy *Ornament* and thy *Guard*. The *House of Commons* is thy *Womb*, in which thy *Children* (according to the Phrase of that Place) are *humbly conceiv'd*: But thy Offspring, like other People's, have different Tempers and Constitutions. Some are vigorous, and live long; others sicken in their Infancy, and see not half their Days. Some are begot to live Seven Years: Others, as soon as they are born, either for some ugly Features they have, or some mischievous Disposition they shew, are wisely knock'd on Head by their own Parents. Some live long, indeed, but sleep all the Time, and are never heard of, 'till they are awaken'd for some particular Occasion, and then they sleep again. Some will make People Swear: Some have a Spite at one particular Person: Some are not brought forth without great *Struggles*: And others, tho' very good Children, have their Hands tied behind them, sometimes for Six Months together, sometimes for Twelve Months.

THUS I consider the *Laws* in all the Views I possibly can, that I may the more admire them. But my Love to them does not rest in them; for my Respect is also proportionably great towards those that are intrusted with the Execution of them: I mean, His Majesty's Worshipful *Justices of the Peace*. There is not, in my Opinion, so solemn, so venerable a Creature under the Sun, as a *Justice*. Mark him! with what Deliberation he smoaks his Pipe, or drinks his Coffee! With what Composure of Countenance he receives the Homage of the Vulgar! With what *Promptness* and *Knowledge* he interprets an *obscure Point*



N<sup>o</sup> 73. *The* TRUE BRITON. 621

*Point of Law!* Such is a *single* Country Justice ; but when they are in *Sessions*, when a *whole Bench* of them are assembled, their *united Usefulness* is inexpressible : Nay, though a Man be in Himself contemptible ; a Fellow of no Mark nor Likelihood ; yet as soon as he is in the Commission for the Peace, in my Eyes he becomes considerable : Thus a round Bit of Copper, in Diameter an-Inch, is worthless, only fit to mend a Kettle ; but let the Sovereign's Head be stamp'd on it, it strait grows Current Coin throughout the Land, will purchase Half-a-penny Loaf of Bread, or get your Honour's Shooes Double Japann'd.

I FEAR, Sir, I shall grow tedious in the Description of my *Self* ; but there remains one Particular, I cannot forbear recounting. When I was young, I had a little Inclination for *Verse* ; which, in despite of my Love for the Laws, has not yet forsaken me ; so that I am sometimes forced to humour it ; but then I confine it to my Darling Subject. Therefore, whenever I meet with any Thing in an Act, which is very *new* or *uncommon*, I generally make a small *Paraphrase* upon it in *Verse* ; and this is both a Compliance to my Inclination, and an Help to my Memory. I beg Leave to present you with a Specimen ; You will find it upon an Act that passed not many Sessions ago.

**W**H<sup>ereas</sup> the Females of this Land,  
Usurp unlimited Command ;  
Such as no other Earthly Dame,  
*Christian* or *Pagan*, has the same ;

Yet

Yet still inroach, and still aspire,  
 To raise their mighty Empire higher ;  
 And not content with Love Intrigues,  
 Against the Throne form Plots and Leagues ;  
 And o'er their Tea, with sawcy Chat,  
 Censure and blame Affairs of State :

Cherish, to humble the proud Fair,  
 As it ~~enables~~, That they Sweat  
 To Love the King, to hate the *Pope*;  
 And cut off the *Pretender's* Hope.  
 This shall controul the Female Pow'r,  
 And fix the *British* Crown secure.  
 Let Tyrants rule with Axe and Rod ;  
 We shall be safe by Oaths, by G —

AS this odd Temper of mine can proceed only  
 from a greater Share of Loyalty and Obedience than  
 other People have, I will make no doubt of its being  
 acceptable to you and your Readers.

*I am, SIR, Yours, &c.*

A. Z.

THIS is to inform the Publick, That the Author  
 of this *TRUE BRITON* being determined to  
 lay down this Work, a CONCLUSIVE PAPER to  
 the same, will be publish'd on *Monday* next ; Which,  
 amongst other Things, will contain some Remarks on  
*High-Treason* in General, both against the *King*, and  
 against the *People*.

THE



THE  
**TRUE BRITON.**

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N U M B. LXXIV.


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*JAMQUEOPUS EXEGI. OVID.*

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17. 1723-4.

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 I AM now come to put an End to the Paper, which was undertaken for the Publick Good, and out of a real Desire to serve my Country, by laying several Matters before 'em, which otherwise might have escaped their Knowledge, and remained conceal'd.

I MUST, first, return my Thanks to those Gentlemen who have so largely contributed to this Work, and who have entertain'd my Readers upon several Learned and Useful Topicks.

Si

IN

I N the second Place, I must express the grateful Sense I have of the kind Manner in which this Work has been received by the Majority of the Kingdom, however several Passages in it have been decyphered by some few Persons, who would cast black and odious Colours on the most innocent Expressions.

I M U S T not likewise forget to declare the Satisfaction I have had in considering the Stupidity of those who have thought proper to attempt the aspersing of me, and who, if they wrote by the Orders of Others, have flatter'd my Vanity, by making me considerable enough to be thought ( by those that employed 'em ) a proper Object to be abused : And if they furnish'd their Simplicity *Gratis*, then they have tormented their own Brain only to impoverish their Printers.

S I N C E, then, I shall now take my Leave. I would earnestly recommend to all TRUE BRITONS, a firm Union in the Interest of His present Majesty and His Royal Family, as the only Means we have to make this a Flourishing and Happy Kingdom.

T R E A S O N is a Word which has of late been so much employed, that it will not be improper to make some Remarks upon it, and to shew, that there is a *Species of Treason* of the blackest Dye, which seems to be forgotten : I mean, That against the *People*.

T O compass or imagine the Death of the King, or any Branch of the Royal Family, is very justly  
esteemed

esteemed the Highest Crime our Law knows: And, certainly, it is an Offence which should be rank'd *next to that*, for any Person to contrive the Destruction of Liberty, and the overturning the Constitution of his Country by any Means whatsoever.

THIS Species of TREASON may be divided into several Branches; and each of them may equally merit the Detestation of all Honest Men.

IF a Man, intrusted by a King to counsel and advise him for the Security and Welfare of his Subjects, should abuse the Confidence his Majesty reposes in him, and direct all his Counsels to his private Advancement, and sacrifice the Honour and Dignity of the Crown to his Avarice and Ambition: If he should make the Publick Treasure a Fund to supply his Private Extravagances: If he should raise a Spirit of Disaffection in the Minds of the People, by engrossing more Favours from his King than a Subject ought to receive, and afterwards support himself by Force and Violence, against the Justice and Inclination of the People: Would not such a Man, like SEJANUS, be Guilty of a most Dangerous and Detestive Species of Treason?

IF the Leading Men of such a Kingdom should, with great Precipitation, run into every thing which should be proposed by the Court, without the least Regard to their Country, and make their ready Compliance to the Will of an Administration, the only Aim of their Ambition: If the Prelates should themselves confess they acted by the Order of the Ministers: Would not such Men, at least, deserve to re-

ceive Pains and Penalties, when Justice and Truth should prevail?

IF the Grandees of such a Kingdom, whose Families for many Generations had been the Bulwarks that had defended the Constitution from former Attempts to overturn it, should suffer themselves to be made the Steps by which Upstarts must ascend into Power; Would not such Men deserve, at least, to lose their Titles and Dignities, when they degenerated from those, who first received them as the Rewards of Honour and Merit?

IT is certain, that such Men would deserve Punishment as well as the States of *Denmark* did, when they made a voluntary Surrender of their Country's Freedom.

IN *Denmark*, the Resolution was sudden, and Liberty was sacrific'd in a Day. But the Grandees of a Kingdom would be equally Guilty, who should throw their Constitution into a Consumption, and suffer it to sink away by slow Degrees, when one of the strongest Symptoms of the Distemper, is, The Secrecy of the Patient.

THE People of *Denmark*, who, out of a sudden Gust of Passion, took the barbarous and wicked Resolution of enslaving themselves, are still more easily to be excus'd, than those who should deliberately sink into Tyranny, and give up their Liberties, Step by Step, nor mind the Remonstrances of those who warn them of their Wickedness.

A S for Us of this Kingdom, our Ancestors have delivered down to us, a Free and Independent Constitution; and it cannot be supposed, that the Sons of those Men who died for the Preservation of it, can ever be brought tamely to resign those Blessings which were won at the Expence of their Blood and Treasure: And if hereafter, in some Degenerate Age, Men should arise capable of such Mischiefs, their Forefathers Glory will illustrate their Corruption.

THERE is nothing can be a greater Security to a Government, than to see the Reins of Power placed in the Hands of Virtuous and Upright Men, who accept of Authority without the least View of abusing it; and who, when by their Diligence they have merited and received the Prince's Favour, their Gratitude enforcing their Allegiance, serve with Affection as well as Duty. Such Persons will always be the Darlings of the People; and the Prince cannot but esteem his Servants who seem rather averse to receive, than forward to extort Favours from Him.

WE have had in this Kingdom many Instances of that Nature, and we have seen Persons, who have served in the Highest Stations, quit their Employments without increasing their Patrimony. The Earl GODOLPHIN, who was, for such a Tract of Time, at the Head of Affairs, is a remarkable Instance of Integrity: He took to himself no accumulated Fortune; He had the late Queen's Favour to an unbounded Degree; and there is no Question, if he had employed it with Partiality to himself, he might have purchased Estates, erected Palaces, adorned them

with the finest Paintings and Statues, and procured for himself and Family such a Number of Reverſionary Grants as would have left Her Succeſſor very few in His Diſpoſal. His Gratitude to his Miſtreſs was ſuch, that he diſtributed her Royal Favours to thoſe who were inviolably attached to Her Inter-eſt, and who had deſerved them by their dutiful Behaviour to Her, and ſcorn'd to diſperſe her Bounties amongſt his own Creatures, as Bribes to attach them to his private Inter-eſt, in order to make himſelf ſo formidable, that whenever Her Majeſty ſhould incline to remove him from his Employments, he might be enabled, at Her own Expence, to ſupport himſelf againſt Her Meaſures, and diſtreſs Her Adminiſtration: He was too Wiſe, as well as too Hon-eſt a Man to plunder the Publick to enrich himſelf; for he could not but foreſee, that a *True Engliſh Spirit* would ſome time or other ſhine forth in the Parliamont, who would be wanting to their Country if they did not reſtore to the Publick that which had been taken from it, and reſume all exorbitant Grants. Every Man in *England* having an equal Right to be loyal and dutiful to the Crown, he rightly judged it highly unreaſonable, that One Single Family ſhould Engroſs all the Royal Favours, and put the Crown out of a Capacity of rewarding others for Two Generations to come.

THE Earl of STANHOPE, who had paſſed through the greateſt Employments, is another Inſtance of this Glorious Diſinter-eſtedneſs; and by the Opinion which the World had framed of his Uncorrupt Views, he was not only grown Popular at Home, but was Perſonally eſteemed by all the Princes Abroad: And it is a memorable Saying of the late King



N<sup>o</sup> 74. *The TRUE BRITON.* 629

King of Spain's of the Earl of Stanhope, *That he had rather have Him for his Minister, than be Master of the Kingdom of England.* When the Circumstances of Affairs at Home, too fresh in every Man's Memory to be repeated ! induced His Majesty to place him at the Head of the Treasury, tho' he served in that Capacity for some time, yet he left a small Patrimony to his Family, scarce sufficient to support the Dignity of the Peerage. But he has left his Son the Glory of knowing that he is descended from a Father, who never was accused of Bribery and Corruption by any Resolution of Parliament ; and upon whose Memory the most inveterate of his Enemies, even those who with the greatest Malignity opposed His Majesty's Measures when he was in Power, have not been able to cast the least Reflection. There was never Minister more famed for *Foreign Intelligence* ; but he scorned to disperse, in every Company of the Town, Men, whose only Pretence to Favour, should be giving Characters of Mankind, not such as they deserve, but such as they thought it would please him best to have 'em bear.

THERE is nothing so dangerous to the Prince, or the Subject, as *Misrepresentation* ; and it seems to have been the Motive on which an Honest and Able Minister of late has acted, when he refused to receive the bare Affirmation of that Wretch *Neyno*, and disdain'd to give him Credit unless he would be upon Oath, where the Life, Fortune and Reputation of any Subject was at Stake.

THERE was an Instance of another Nature, which requires an equal Regard from Posterity : I mean the Honour and Integrity of the Earl *COWPER*, to whose

Memory I have already paid the Tribute of a Tear, and shall now attempt to do him Justice. Whilst he was in a Publick Station, to which he ascended by that which ought to be the only Road to Power, Merit, he made even the *Severity of Justice* amiable, by his Affable Manner of pronouncing it, and his Kind Treatment of all those who appeared before him. Tho' he came into Employment in an Age of Life which might have given Occasion for Envy, yet there appear'd a General Satisfaction in the Wise Choice Her Majesty had made, when she established Him to be the Mouth of Equity in this Kingdom.

HIS Impartiality is conspicuous in nothing more than by the Acquiescence that was generally made under his Determinations; which appears by the Scarcity of Appeals that came from the Court of *Chancery* when he presided there. In the framing the Commissions of the Peace, he scorned to take part in the Private Quarrels of particular Families, or fill them with Creatures whose only Business it was to carry private Prejudices to the greatest Heighth, — He took Care to intrust that Great Power with Men of *Known* Loyalty and Affection to the Crown, as being the properest Distributors of Publick Justice.

WHEN he thought proper to resign the Employment of Chancellor, the second Time, the Reasons of which Step may, some time or other, be made publick, he shew'd the World, that he was Master of that Great Quality of quitting Power whenever the Exercise of it grew disagreeable to him: And he persisted, to the End of his Days, in a Brave and Strenuous Resistance to Measures he did not like, and in an inviolable

At-

Attachment to the present Establishment, from which no Ill Usage could force him.

He was the Best of Friends, and was as Constant in his Friendships as he was Cautious in contracting them; and shew'd the Pattern of an Impartial Judge, an Upright Unbias'd Minister, a Great Orator, and a **TRUE BRITON**. If any Man would aspire to the Greatest Character in Life, let him tread in Earl COWPER's Steps, and then he will send his Name to Posterity with all the Advantages that Virtue and Honour can fix upon it.

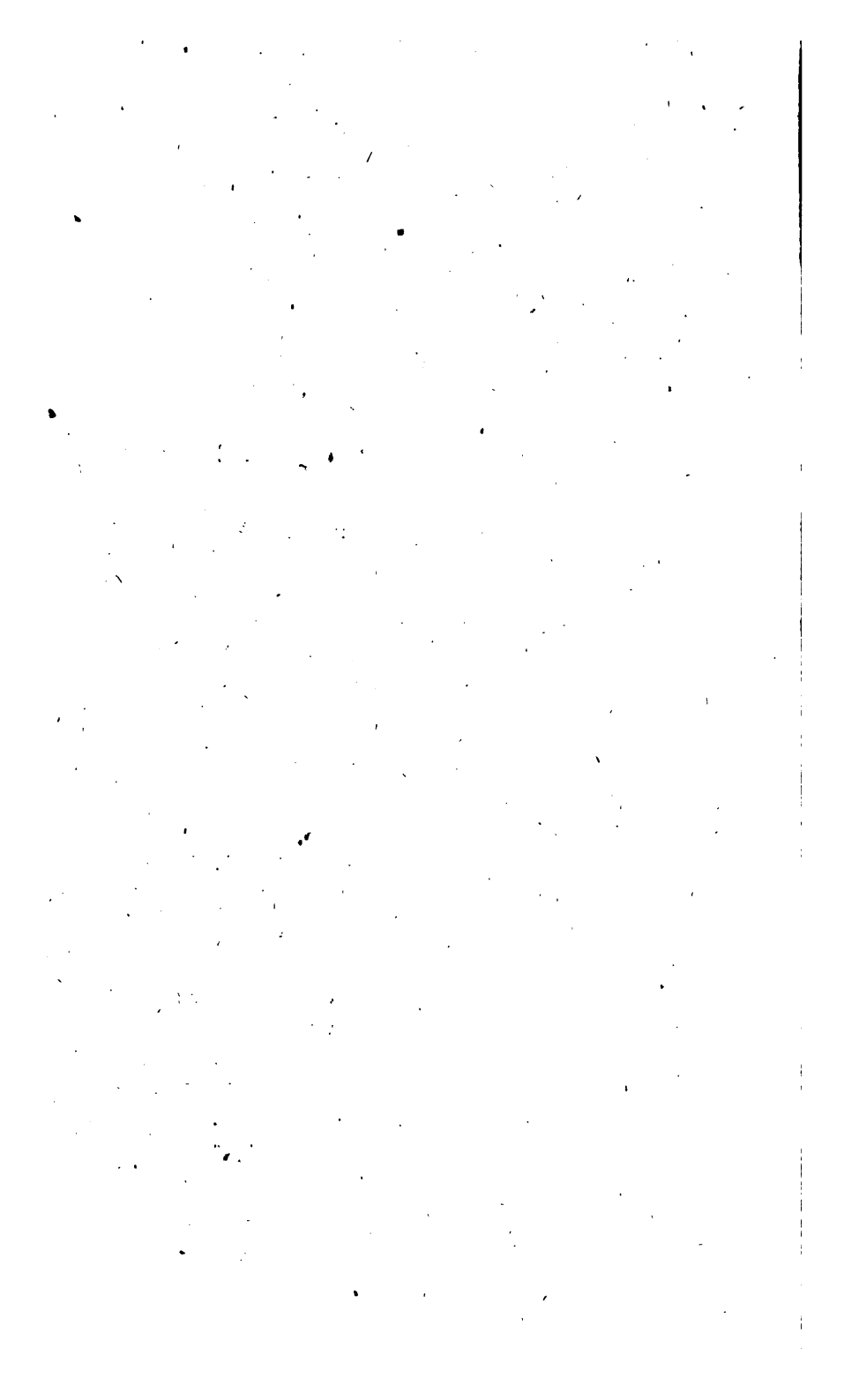
I SHALL not trouble my Readers any more ; but hope the Majority of the Kingdom will believe, That I shall continue, to the End of my Life, in a steady Resolution of inviolably pursuing the True Interest of my KING and my COUNTRY ; and then I hope I shall merit the Character affix'd to the Head of this Paper.

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THE Author of this Paper was Yesterday shewn a Paragraph in a Paper call'd the *Briton* of *Wednesday* last ; and the Scoundrel that wrote it may be assured, he shall be treated as such infamous Rascals as himself deserve, when they take such villainous Liberties.

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AS it has been impossible to insert all the Letters and Advices, which we have, from time to time, received from our numerous Correspondents, we can only, in this general Manner, return our Acknowledgments, and hope to be excus'd the Omission. And whenever a Subject of **PLAIN-DEALING** and *Gallantry* appears in the World, many things that were incongruous to this Design, may obtain proper Place therein.



HIS GRACE  
THE  
Duke of *WHARTON*'s  
S P E E C H  
IN THE  
HOUSE *of* LORDS,  
ON THE  
Third Reading of the BILL to  
*Inflit Pains and Penalties on FRANCIS*  
*(late) Lord Bishop of ROCHESTER;*  
M A Y the 15th, 1723.

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THE  
Duke of *Wharton's*  
S P E E C H  
IN THE  
House of Lords, &c.

OME Words which have fallen from the Reverend Prelate, who spoke last, have made it, in some Measure, necessary for me to trouble your Lordships with the Reasons that induced me to differ with him in Opinion, and to give my Negative to the Bill now depending before us.

IF I don't mis-understand his Lordship (and if I should mistake his Meaning, I hope he will set me right) he was pleased to say, That Persons without Doors would be apt to cast different Reflections on the particular Behaviour of every Lord this Day; That those who were for the passing of this Bill, would

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would be accused of *Malice* and *Partiality*; And those who were of contrary Sentiments, would be branded with *Disaffection* to the present Happy Establishment.

FOR my Part, I am far from thinking, that Considerations of this Nature will have the least Weight with any of your Lordships; and am very certain, that every one, who gives his Vote on this important Occasion, has attended, with the greatest Care, to the Evidence that has been given at your Bar, which is the Foundation of this Day's Debate.

THE Proofs that have been brought to support the Charge, and the Bishop's Defence, are to be thoroughly considered; and when your Lordships proceed according to the Rules of Justice, you will not fear, not value, any Consequences which may attend the discharging of your Duty.

SO far I will venture to affirm, That the best Way to shew our Zeal to His Majesty, and the present Government, is, To act, in all Cases, both in our *Judicial* and *Legislative* Capacities, with that Honour and Impartiality, as ought to flourish in this Great Council of the Nation.

I COULD have wished the Noble Lords who have given their Reasons for the passing this extraordinary Law, would have entred into the particular Circumstances of this Case, and considered it *singly* on its *own Merits*; But instead of speaking on that Head, I cannot but take Notice, That they have wandered from that (which ought to have been their *only*



only Consideration) into Learned Discourses on Bills of this Nature in General.

I SHALL not trouble this House with any Arguments against Attainders. Many Lords, of greater Weight and Abilities than myself, have already spoke fully to this Point in the preceding Debates.

I SHALL only so far agree with the Reverend Prelate, who spoke before me, That it is proper, that such a Power of punishing by Bill, should be vested in the Legislature to be exercised on extraordinary Emergencies: But then I must add, If ever that Power is abused; If ever it is employed to destroy innocent Persons, it is evident, That the *Lives, Liberties, and Fortunes* of every Subject in *Britain*, are in the utmost Danger, and liable to be sacrificed to the Fury of a *Party*.

IT has been admitted, That every Bill of *Pains and Penalties* is to stand upon its *own Bottom*; and that the passing of One Act of this Nature, is not to be brought as a Precedent for the supporting of Another, unless there be *convincing* Evidence to enforce *each* Case. And therefore the proper Consideration now before us, is, Whether the Evidence offer'd against the Unfortunate Prelate is sufficient to induce your Lordships to believe him Guilty of the heavy Crimes of which he stands accused?

MY LORDS, I shall take the Liberty of considering the whole Proofs that have been brought on this Occasion, both by Way of *Charge, Defence, Reply, and Rejoinder*; and though I own myself very unequal to this Task, yet, since no other Lord, who could

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could do it much better, has undertaken it, I think it my Duty, as a Peer, and as an *Englishman*, to lay it before your Lordships in the best Manner I am able.

THE Method I shall observe for the more clear Stating of the Case, shall be, To lay every particular Branch of Evidence before you, and to distinguish the several Parts of the Accusation, and consider them *separately*, to avoid Confusion, and to be the more exact in what I have to offer.

I HOPE I shall have your Lordships Indulgence for taking up so much of your Time as this will require; But I assure you, I shall endeavour to be as brief as the Nature of the Thing will admit, and will intrude on your Patience as little as possible.

I MUST also desire your Lordships will pardon me, if I repeat several Arguments that have been used by the Council at the Bar; and if I even mention some Things which fell from me in the Debate on Mr. Kelly's Bill, whose Case is very much interwoven with the present; so that it is almost impossible to avoid it.

BEFORE I go any further, I cannot but say, That were these Crimes plainly proved against the Bishop of Rochester, his *sacred Function* and *Station in the Church*, would be *Aggravations* of his Guilt: But, as this is certain on the one Hand, so on the other, your Lordships will require very *clear Demonstration*, before you can think it possible for a Bishop of the *Protestant Church* (who has signalized himself in Defence of the Reformation, and the only one of that

that Bench where he had lately the Honour of sitting; that ever wrote in Favour of *Martin Luther*) to engage into a Conspiracy for introducing *Papery* and *Arbitrary Power* amongst us.

MY LORDS, The Council for the Bill opened the Charge with acquainting the House, That it was only to be supported by producing of *decyphered Letters* full of *Fictitious Names* and *Cant Words*; They were so very fair as to confess, they had not *one living Witness* that could charge the Bishop with any thing, nor even so much as a Letter under his own Hand; Therefore, on the first View, this Manner of condemning, on such kind of Evidence, ought to require our *utmost Caution*, lest we should establish a Method, which our Enemies may hereafter take to destroy the Greatest and most Innocent Subject in the Kingdom.

Mr. *WEARG* cited Two Cases, which he would willingly have us receive as *Precedents* to justify the admitting of *Circumstantial Evidence*: The one was, The Case of *Astton*, who was condemned on Circumstances only; But, my Lords, This was before the *Treason-Act* was passed, which requires *Two positive Witnesses*, and nothing could induce the Legislature to pass that Law, but a thorough Conviction of the Danger that might attend the admitting of any Proofs which were not *positive* or *certain*.

THE Second Case he cited, was that of *Harrison*, for the Murder of Dr. *Clinch*, and the Learned Gentleman tells you, That it was the pulling out of a Handkerchief that led to the Discovery of that Mur-

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der. It is very certain, *Circumstances* may lead to the Discovery of Evidence; But must be well supported before they can be converted into convincing Proofs.

THE First Piece of Evidence that was offered at the Bar, was, The *Extracts* of Letters from Abroad, which this House seems, in some measure, to have declared to be immaterial, when they did not so much as desire to see Copies of the *whole Letters*, nor the *Originals*, and even admitted one to be read which was *Anonymous*: But It will not be improper to observe, that through this whole Correspondence the Bishop of *Rochester* is not named. And therefore I cannot see why they took up our Time with reading Papers quite Foreign from this Case; especially since Every-body allows there has been a Conspiracy, which is the only Fact to be gathered from this Correspondence.

THE next Point which was attempted to be proved, was, That Captain *Halstead* went to fetch the late Duke of *Ormond*, and was at the Deanary with the Bishop before he embark'd; There are also Two Letters found in the Bishop's Close-stool from this Gentleman to his Lordship, which were read, and are only Appointments for Visits, but mention nothing of this Design; and, I think, there was a Coachman, that proved *Halstead* was an Hour with him some Days before he left *London*.

THIS, my Lords, was opened as a Matter of great Importance; But your Lordships must remember, that the supposed Design of *Halstead's* bringing  
th<sup>e</sup>

the late Duke of Ormond into England, is only proved by Hearsay. One of the Crew belonging to the Ship in which he went, has deposed, That it was the Common Report at Bilbao, that *Halstead* came there on that Brand.

HOW far Common Fame is to prevail, I submit: But if this Hearsay were true, is every Person who was an Hour with this Gentleman before his Departure, supposed to be privy to this Project? And what a strain'd Construction is it to insinuate, The Bishop of Rochester knew of his Intention, because he received a Visit from *Halstead*, who was a Tenant under his Bishoprick? And this is the more extraordinary, since it has not been so much as pretended, that any Correspondence has passed between the Reverend Prelate and the late Duke.

THEY then produced Letters directed to one *Dumvil*, which were decyphered. And Mr. *Wallis* was examined to prove, that they were rightly and justly explained.

MY LORDS; It very well deserves your Lordships Consideration, how far this kind of Evidence is to be admitted: It has appeared to your Lordships by the Oath of Mr. *Wallis* himself, That it is an *Mis* which depends upon Conjecture; for this Gentleman has confessed, That every Man is liable to a Mistake in this, as well as in other Sciences; He tells you, that he and his Brother Decypherer varied in One or Two Instances; He allows, that the Chasms, which they were forc'd to leave in those Letters, might alter the Sense of them. And; therefore; I cannot but think;

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that an Accusation grounded on *such Proofs*, is uncertain, and precarious.

THE Person who is the *Decypherer*, is not to be confuted, and what he says must be taken for granted, because the Key cannot be produced with *Safety* to the *Publick*; and, consequently, (if his *Conjectures* be admitted to be *Evidence*), our *Lives* and *Fortunes* must depend on the *Skill* and *Honesty* of *Decypherers*, who may with *Safety* impose on the *Legislature*, when there are not Means of contradicting them for want of seeing their *Key*.

MY LORDS, In the Case of *Coleman*, the *Key* was Printed, as has been well observed by the Council at the Bar; and I am very much surprized, That Gentlemen of such *Abilities* and *Integrity*, as the Members of the *Secret Committee* in another Place (who were so exact as to print the *French* Originals to the translated Letters, that the World might see how *just* and *candid* the *Prosecutors* of the Plot were) did not, for the Satisfaction of the *Publick*, permit us to see the *Key* in *Print*, on the Truth of which depends such a *Chain of Consequences*.

I OWN myself intirely ignorant of this *Art*: But, as I should be very far from condemning a Man on *my own Conjecture*, I should much less do it on the *Conjectures* of others.

THE Greatest *Certainty* Human Reason knows, is, A *Mathematical Demonstration*, and were I brought to your Lordships Bar to be try'd upon a *Proposition* of Sir *Isaac Newton's*, which he upon Oath should swear

swear to be true ; I would appeal to your Lordships, Whether I should not be unjustly condemned, unless he *produced* his *Demonstration*; that I might have the Liberty of inquiring into the Truth of it, from Men of equal Skill?

I CANNOT think any Man will allow Evidence of this Nature to be good ; But if in this Case relating to the *decyphered Letters to Dumvil*, your Lordships should admit it, there is nothing mentioned in them that can affect the Bishop, neither is he at all nam'd in them, but they are only brought to prove the Conspiracy in general.

THE Examinations of Mr. *Neymo* are the next Points that are laid before your Lordships ; And, indeed, I must do the Gentlemen at the Bar the Justice of saying, That they forbore mentioning any thing of them, when they *opened* the Charge.

THEY were so sensible that such Proofs could not have the least Weight to affect the Bishop, that tho' in the Case of Mr. *Kelly* they were produced against him as very Material to support that Bill, yet they did not think proper to name them against the Bishop ; which I am thoroughly perswaded, is owing to what appeared at your Bar by the Examination of Mr. *Bingley*, and the Universal Opinion which every Person seemed to have of the Villainy of Mr. *Neymo's* Transactions.

MY LORDS, These Examinations were never signed by the Person, neither was he ever examin'd to 'em upon Oath ; So that, were they of Consequence,

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and he a Person of Credit, they could not not be admitted to affect any Person whatsoever, in any Court of Justice or Equity. I don't mean, That they could not be read according to the *strict Rules of Westminster-Hall*; which is admitted on all Sides they could not; But I dare affirm, That no Credit can be given to ~~em~~ on any Account whatsoever.

THE Person was closely confin'd, and consequently in the Hands of the Government, so that he was at that Time under the greatest Apprehensions, which might, in some measure, prevent him from speaking Truth with that Sincerity and Candour, of which every Person ought to be Master, when he is examin'd on Matters of such nice Nature.

THOUGH these Papers were intirely given up by the Council for the Bill, yet the *Extracts* of them was read, and they are the *visible Foundation* of this Charge; and if they are insignificant, the whole Accusation falls to the Ground: For the *whole Proof* of the Bishop's Dictating to Mr. Kelly, depends on Mr. Noy's bare *Affirmation*.

THE whole of what Noy says, or is supposed to say, is, That Mr. Kelly told him he wrote the Bishop's Letters for him; Mr. Kelly denies it, and Mr. Noy was so Conscience that he had been guilty of many Crimes, that he endeavour'd to withdraw from Justice, and the Providence of God, it is said, intercepted him.

MY LORDS, If you will consider the *Improbabilities* of this Evidence, although it were upon Oath, and



and signed by him; it cannot be supported. He tells you, That he was intrusted to draw up Memorials to the Regent; yet none of those have been produced, and yet it is apparent the Copies of them might, with Ease, have been obtained, if he had been as thoroughly pressed to deliver them, as he was to declare he wrote them.

THESE Memorials, he says, were wrote by the Order of Mr. *Henry Watson*, whom he takes to be the late Earl *Marshall*; And I am certain your Lordships don't think that Fact material, when you came to a Resolution, That the Bishop of *Rockester* should not be at Liberty to ask, If Enquiry was made of the said *Neyno*, or if he gave any Satisfaction to the Lords of Council, touching that important Fact of *Watson's*, whom he took to be Earl *Marshall*, lying with him several Nights.

IT was very well observed by a Learned Gentleman at the Bar, That no-body can believe the late Earl *Marshall* would have reposed so great a Confidence in a Person, who was intirely a Stranger to him, and of such little Note; and the *Jacobite* Party must be in a low Condition, when they make Use of such a Creature to write Papers of that Importance.

THERE is so much *Improbability* in this and other Points, and so much *Contradiction* in several Parts of his Examinations, that they appear to me, and must to all reasonable Men, as the *Diſſates* of Fear, and not agreeable to Truth.

HE mentions, That the Reverend Prelate, (for such I still may call him) had some Favour offer'd him

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by the Court; But that cannot be true, and must be added to the rest of these *Absurdities*.

BUT, my LORDS, what, in my Opinion, clears up all these Matters, and makes it impossible for me to give the least Credit to this, or any other Part of the Charge, are, The several Testimonies of *Bingley*, *Skeen*, and *Stewart*.

I MUST observe to your Lordships, That the Two First Persons, *Bingley* and *Skeen*, are actually now in *separate* Custodies; and consequently, could have no Communication one with another. The Third is at Liberty; but his Testimony is so thoroughly supported by Mr. *Gordon* and Mr. *Kynaston*, that no Doubt can arise as to the *Veracity* of it.

THESE Gentlemen, who are in the Hands of the Government, are under *Hopes* and *Fears*, and therefore, it is certain, when they speak a Language, which, perhaps, may be disagreeable to those on whom they at present chiefly depend, it must be the *Spirit of Truth* that prevails.

Mr. *BINGLEY* was before us in the Case of *Kelly*, and was also examin'd at the Bar of the House of Commons, though not upon Oath; and though he has been more severely treated, as he told your Lordships, and more strictly confined since his first Examination, yet he has persisted in his Story; And though he was so long at your Bar, and so many Questions put to him, yet he never varied in any one Circumstance, but appeared consistent through the whole Course of his Behaviour.

I SHALL

I SHALL not detain your Lordships with Recapitulating his whole Evidence, for I did it very fully on a former Occasion. But your Lordships will remember, he told you, *Neyno* abounded in Money, which *Neyno* said (after he was apprehended at *Deal*) *An honourable Person* (and on this Occasion, I hope, I may Name him) *Mr. Walpole*, gave him: and more particularly, he mentions 50 l. which *Neyno* said he received the Night before he went to *France*.

*BINGLEY* told your Lordships, *That Neyno had assured him, he used to meet this Honourable Person in the Stable-Yard at Chelsea; And, my LORDS, The Errand on which he was going to France, was To discover some Secrets relating to Cyphers, which he would have ingaged Bingley to have done for him; and particularly, to get them, if possible, out of Mr. Kelly; Which, he said, could be obtain, would be of great Advantage to him.*

THAT *Neyno* had declared to him, *He would be even with Mr. Kelly, before he was aware of it, or Words to that Effect; and that Mr. Kelly always seem'd averse to any Acquaintance with Mr. Neyno, of whom he entertained a mean Opinion.*

THAT *Neyno's* Father refused him Money, which makes it highly probable that his Poverty was the Occasion of his Villainy; and that when he was taken at *Deal*, he had declared to him, *Mr. Walpole expected to find the Plot about him; and since Mr. Walpole could not, he must make one for him.*

NEYNO.

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*NETNO* told *Bingley*, *That the Honourable Person had vowed Destruction to the Bishop of Rochester*, by saying, *He would pull down the Pride of this Haughty Prelate*; which is sufficient to convince your Lordships how little Regard ought to be had to the *Hearsay Evidence* of so false a *Wretch*:

*Mr. BINGLEY* says, *That Part of this Account* he had given to the Lords of the Council: and I could have wished, that *his Examination* (as well as *some others* to the same Purpose, which were taken about the same Time) had been laid before the Parliament.

*Mr. SKEEN*, who is also in Custody, has deposed, *That he lay in the same House with Neyno, and had some Conversations with him.*

*THAT Neyno* had told him, *What he had said of the Bishop of Rochester was intirely false.* And,

*THAT Mr. Walpole* had offer'd him a considerable Annuity to turn Evidence; and had given him Instructions before he was called into the Lords, *what Questions would be ask'd him, and what Answers he should make; and threatened him with Newgate if he would not comply.*

*SKEEN* says further, *That Neyno swore* (and I hope the Reverend Bench will, in such a Case, permit me to repeat the Words) *By God, there were Two Plots; One of Mr. Walpole's, against the Protestant Lords, and One of his, to bite Mr. Walpole of Money;*  
And

And this seems to be the only Time, that ever Mr. Neyno averr'd any Thing upon Oath.

TO convince the World, what a Creature this Neyno was, he tells Stoen further, *That, once, at Lord Townshend's Office, he had a great Inclination to have Stab'd the Chancellor of the Exchequer.* He tells you, That Neyno had wrote a Paper to declare, *That all he had said of Lord Onery was false.*

MY LORDS, The next Witness was Mr. Stewart, who was unfortunately in Custody when Neyno was brought to Town from Deal.

STEWART says, That he slept the second Night with Neyno. That Neyno had told him *what he had said of the Bishop was False; and that Mr. Walpole had offered him a great Sum of Money, if he would Swear to what he said, and turn Evidence, which he declared he could not do.*

THAT Mr. Walpole had taken him into another Room before he was Examined, and told him what Questions he would probably be asked, and what Answers he should give.

HE says, That Neyno told him also, *That he had like to have kill'd Mr. Walpole, and set up an End to the Plot: And that Mr. Walpole had given him a Paper of Directions, which he was to Answer, in order to be a Witness against the Pretending Lords.*

A S a Confirmation of his Testimony, Stewart says, *He told this to Mr. Gordon before Mr. Neyno was*

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*was drowned; and to Mr. Kynaston before the Meeting of the Parliament.*

Mr. GORDON confirms this Part of his Evidence, and assures your Lordships, That he had heard it from *Stewart* before the Death of *Neyno*. And Mr. Kynaston, a Gentleman of an undoubted Character, lately a Member of Parliament for *Shrewsbury*, has assured your Lordships, *That he was acquainted with Stewart's Account of Neyno before the Meeting of the Parliament; And adds this Circumstance, That when in the Appendix he saw those Six Questions printed, he shew'd 'em to Stewart, who seem'd rejoiced, and said, You see, Sir, what I told you is true.*

**SUCH** concurring Testimonies from Persons kept so separate, and who are speaking against their own Private Interest, must have the greatest Weight, and must at least prevent any Rational and Impartial Person from giving the least Credit to the bare *Hearsay* of this *Philip Neyno*.

IF any Doubt could remain, as to the *Validity* of this *Testimony*, it is sufficiently confirm'd by the Persons brought to *disprove* it.

**THE** Chancellor of the Exchequer himself, does not pretend to deny that *Neyno* told these Things, but only adds other Circumstances to convince you of *Neyno's Villainy*; and assures you, *That at the Time he was receiving Favours from him, he was thoroughly convinc'd he intended to cheat him, which was the Occasion of his being apprehended.*

**HE**

HE own'd the Transactions between them before *Neyno* went to *France*, and particularly the Money mention'd by *Bingley*, which are Proofs that *Neyno* must have disclosed these Secrets; since they could not come from Mr. *Walpole*, and He and *Neyno* only were privy to them.

Mr. *WALPOLE* has shewn your Lordships the foul Draught of the Questions mention'd by *Sewart*; and when he denies that Part of *Neyno's* Declaration relating to the Instructions given him before the Examinations; He owns, he was twice alone with him; once the first Night of his being brought to Town, and the second time, when he gave him the Paper of Directions, which might be Foundation enough for *Neyno* to frame to *Nostrous a Falshood*.

THE Witnesses brought by the Counsel for the Bill, to the Character of Mr. *Bingley*, seem rather to confirm it than otherwise; and all agree, they never heard any Thing against his *Morality*. — They indeed have said, he bore the Character of a *Jacobite*; and suffered for having dispersed a Libel: But Mr. Baron *Gilbert*, who was his Judge when that Punishment was inflicted on him, has told your Lordships, That his *private Life* was not vilified at his Tryal, and that neither *Perjury* or *Forgery* was ever laid to his Door.

THOUGH the Punishment he suffered was the *Pillory*, yet it is the *Crime* and not the *Punishment*, that makes the *Ignominy*, and for this I can Appeal to the Learned Judges.

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## 1652 The Duke of Wharton's SPEECH

IN order to destroy the Evidence of Mr. Skeen, they produced one *Pancier*, who tells you, That *Skeen* had revealed many Secrets to him relating to the Plot, and particularly, of a Military Chest, which was collected to carry on their supposed Designs, and support the *Jacobites*. — But I presume every Body who heard the Two Persons at the Bar, could not but remark the *Swearing* with which Mr. *Skeen* denied these *Affirmations*, and the *Confusion* with which the other *affirmed* them.

Mr. *Pancier* seem'd to drop Something which entirely destroys any Credit that could be given to him, by saying, That he had owned to Mr. *Skeen*, That he was a Friend to this Administration; and yet has Sworn, That *after* such a Declaration, *Skeen* had still persisted in his Story, and revealed some Part of this Intelligence to him. How far this is probable, your Lordships are the best Judges.

Mr. *Pancier* goes further, and tells you, That Part of this Conversation happened in St. James's Park, in the Presence of one *Dufour*. This *Dufour* was in the Hands of the Government, and I can't conceive why we have never seen *him* or his *Depositions*, when it would have been so easy to have brought this *corroborating* Witness to Mr. *Pancier's* Testimony.

I CAN'T but think, That the not producing this Man's Evidence, is a strong Circumstance to convince your Lordships he *did not* agree in the *same* Story with Mr. *Pancier*.

THEY



THEY also produced *Skeen's* Attainder for the *Preston Rebellion*: But there have been many Acts of Grace since, so that he is capable of being an Evidence; and there has nothing appeared to traduce his Character as a Man of Morals.

IN order to shew your Lordships, That *Neyno* could not possibly make these Confessions to Mr. *Skeen* and Mr. *Stewart*, the Council for the Bill, maintain, That they will prove *Neyno* and the Prisoners were not together after the first Night.

THIS, my Lords, would be very Material, but I think it appears, by the Proofs brought to support this Assertion, That they frequently have conversed one with another.

THE first Witness they call'd was Mr. *Crawford* the Messenger, in whose House the Prisoners were in Custody; and, my Lords, I can't but say, it seems very odd, they should bring a Man to Swear he had done his Duty: He has told your Lordships, That Lord *Townshend* had given him Orders, That *Neyno* should be close confined; and if, after that, it should appear, That he had neglected such Directions, there is no Question but that he instantly, and deservedly, would have been removed out of his Employment.

THIS Messenger, in this Situation, tells you, That after the first Night, they never convers'd, to the best of his Knowledge. That Mr. *Skeen* call'd *Neyno* a *Rogue of an Informer*; and spoke in very hard

654 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH  
hard Terms of him ; which I indeed think the Fel-  
low well deserv'd.

*CRAWFORD* says, That Mr. *Neyno* had some  
Paper, two Sheets of which he found missing. He  
likewise swears, That Mr. *Stewart* lay upon the  
Stairs ; and owns he had at that Time Two Servant-  
Maids.

*MRS. Crawford*, his Mother, swears, That, to  
the best of her Knowledge, the Prisoners were never to-  
gether : That she kept the Keys of the Rooms her-  
self, but used to send up the Maid, *Hannab Wright*,  
with the Dinher. — Your Lordships will observe,  
that both this Woman and her Son, swear To the  
best of their Knowledge only, and are far from positive  
Witnesses.

*HANNAH WRIGHT*, when she was first  
call'd, spoke in the same Language, with them, tho'  
she afterwards recollected herself better.

WHEN the Bishop came to Rejoin, *Francis*  
*Wood*, *Thomas Wood*, and Mr. *Ruffel* severally say,  
That this *Hannab Wright* had declared to them,  
That she used to let the Prisoners converse together  
whenever she had an Opportunity, which was when  
Mr. *Crawford* and his Mother were out of the Way ;  
and that she used to stand upon the Stairs, and give  
Notice when any Person came, that they might retire  
into their several Rooms. And the other Maid, whose  
Name is *Christian*, has deposed, That *Hannab*  
gave the Key of *Neyno's* Room to *Stewart*, and sever-  
al Times desired *Stewart* to go up to him, and that  
they

in the HOUSE of LORDS. 657

they were together an Hour or more. And when *Hannah* was call'd a second Time, she own'd she was turn'd away for Suspicion of having help'd *Neymo* in his *Escape*; That she has left *Skten's* Door open, who lay near *Neymo*; and that there was a large Hole in *Neymo's* Door through which they might converse.

SHE said, That *Neymo* gave her a Paper, which she was to convey for him, but that it was taken out of her Bosom, and burnt by one of the Prisoners.

WHEN Mr. *Stewart* said, That he sat upon *Neymo's* Bed the Second Night, and lay in the Garret where there was a Partition, but a Communication between 'em, *Hannah* said, She could not be positive to that; but believes it true.

Mr. *CRAWFORD*, when he was call'd to that Point, according to his usual Custom, denies it To the best of his Knowledge.

YOUR Lordships will now judge, whether the greatest Credit is to be given to the Belief of a Messenger and his Mother, who are swearing that they did their Duty; or, to the positive Oaths of *Skten*, *Stewart*, *Gardon*, *Kyndston*, *Francis Wood*, *Thomas Wood*, *Russel* and *Christian*, confirm'd by the Confession of *Hannah Wright*, when she came to be Cross-Examined and Confronted.

THIS, my Lords, concludes what has appear'd at the Bar; relating to Mr. *Neymo* and his Transactions; and I am pretty certain, every impartial Body must

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agree

## 656 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH

agrees with me, That so far from giving the least Credit to what he says, there have appear'd such Circumstances in the Transactions which are now come to Light, that must make the greatest Caution necessary, before we believe any other Part of the Charge.

YOUR Lordships will take Notice, That Mr. *Cratford* confessed Mr. *Neyno* had the Use of Paper, and found Two Sheets missing; and *Hannah Wright* owns she had a Paper from him, which was burnt by one of the Prisoners. This, my Lords, undoubtedly was the Paper relating to Lord *Overy*, mention'd by *Steen* in his Evidence.

MY LORDS, I am now coming to the great and only Foundation remaining to support this Bill: If *Neyno's Hearsay*, is not to be believed, which is the Proof that was offer'd to shew, that Mr. *Kelly* was the Bishop's Secretary, and us'd to write for him; and particularly, That the Bishop directed Three Letters, which were wrote in *Kelly's* Hand, and transmitted to *France* under Cover to Monsieur *Gordon le Fil;*

EVERY Body must agree, that unless the Dictating of these Letters be clearly prov'd, the Bishop ought to be acquitted; and when, hereafter, this great Affair comes to be canvass'd by Posterity, it will stand or fall, as this Fact shall be strongly made appear.

THEY first read *Plunket's* Cypher; and Mr. *Paradise* attests it to be his Hand-writing.

WHEN

WHEN this Piece of Evidence was offer'd, People were at a Loss to know what they intended to make of it, and little thought, that they should be drovt to make use of *Jackson*, standing for the *Pretender* in that Cypher, to shew that the Letter directed to *Jackson* (one of the Three before mention'd affirm'd to be dictated by the Bishop of *Rockester* to Mr. *Kelly*) was to the *Pretender*; I shall take notice of this extraordinary Proceeding when I come to consider those Letters. I shall only say now, That were Mr. *Plunket's* Correspondence to be regarded, the Plot is of a very deep Nature, for he has had the Impudence to insinuate the most ridiculous Aspersions against the *Greatest Men* amongst us.

THREE of his Letters were Read out of Cypher; in Two of which Mr. *Johnson* is named; that is Mr. *Kelly*; but neither Mr. *Kelly*, or the Bishop of *Rockester* are allowed Places in his Cypher, and, consequently, were not in an Association with him. *Johnson* is only spoke of by *Plunket*, when he is mentioning Domestick News, and in no other manner than might be in every *News-Letter* that went by the General Post.

MY LORDS, in order to shew that the Three Letters sent under Cover to Mr. *Gordon le Fitz*, were Mr. *Kelly's* Hand-writing, which they very justly thought was necessary to be made appear before they proved that the Bishop was concerned in them; they produced a Letter of the 20th of *August*, which a Clerk of the Post-Office swears was stop'd at the General Post Office.

## 658 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH

TO convince us this Letter is Mr. *Kelly's* writing, *Hutchins* the Messenger says, *To the best of his Knowledge*, it is Mr. *Kelly's* Hand; and at the same Time owns, he never saw him write till after his Commitment, and then he stood by him while he wrote Two Letters, one to Lord *Townsend*, the other to Mr. *Delafaye*; Those Letters were produced at the Bar, and therefore every Lord in the House is as good a Judge of the Similitude as the Messenger, who has lately been restored into Favour; on what Account I cannot tell.

IF Mr. *Kelly*, during his Confinement, counterfeited and disguised his Hand, then the Messenger's Evidence can't be of any Weight; and if he wrote as usual, then every Person is equally capable of framing an Opinion of it who sees the Three Letters.

THE next Witness, is *Malone*, who swears, She has seen him direct Letters, but can't tell how long since she saw him write, nor how often.

THE Persons who contradict this Evidence are so positive, so clear, and so concurring in their Testimony, that no Doubt can rise upon it.

Mr. *Bingley*, when he was shewn this Letter, swears it is not like his Hand-writing.

Mr. *Brown*, a Peruke-Maker, well vers'd and acquainted with his Writing, when he was shewn the Letter of the 20th of *August*, and the Date of it hid by the Counsel for the Bill (so that he could not know what Paper it was before him) swears, *It is not his Hand.*

*Hand-writing*: When the Letter to *Delafaye* was produced, he declared, *That was his Hand-writing*: When another Paper was shewn, (I think, it was the *Marriage Articles*) he said, *That was more like his Hand-writing* than that of the 20th of *August*, but he did not believe it was wrote by him; and when they question'd him upon the Letter to Lord *Townshend*, he swore, *It was Mr. Kelly's Hand-writing*.

Mr. *Pickering*, who had Occasion to know Mr. *Kelly's* Hand, having lent him some Money, and received several Notes and Letters from him during that Transaction, does agree with Mr. *Brown* in every particular and most minute Circumstance; which is a clear and evident Proof, that this Letter of the 20th of *August* was not wrote by Mr. *Kelly*.

THE Difference, which they tell your Lordships, they observe between the *Cut* of the Letters in that of the 20th of *August* and the others, is, That one is longer and straiter, the other wider and shorter, which is obvious to any Body that will look on both, and is a Confirmation of their Veracity.

THE Prosecutors of the Plot might have proved this better, and not have been driven to the Testimony of a *Messenger* so support this great Foundation of their Charge. It is notorious what Search they have made for Evidence of all kinds; and as Mr. *Kelly* was Educated in a College, they might easily have found credible Witnesses to that Point, if those Letters had been wrote by him.

## 660 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH

IN the Case of Similitude of Hands, when it has been the most *clearly* and *positively* proved, as on the Tryal of Colonel *Sidney*, it has been esteemed to be Cruel, that a Man should be convicted on such kind of Evidence; and the Attainder of that unfortunate Gentleman was reversed for that Reason.

IN *Sidney's* Tryal, his Bankers swore, They used to pay Bills drawn by him in the Hand-writing they were shewn, and no Persons could contradict them; and yet the Sentence against him was a great Blemish to that Reign. The Great Lord Chief Justice *Holt*; in the Case of *Crosby*, refused to admit it; and the Lord Chief-Baron *Bury*, on *Francis's* Tryal, follow'd that Example.

A T present, give me leave to say, There is no Evidence that it is Mr. *Kelly's* Hand, and there is positive Proof that it is not. — Therefore, we who live under so *Equitable*, *Just*, and *Happy* a Government, can never Convict a Man, in these Days of Liberty, on such *insufficient* Conjectures.

THEY next produced the Three Letters, which, they would insinuate, were wrote by *Kelly*, and dictated by the Bishop, which were mention'd by me before, and which were sworn by the Clerks of the Post-Office, to have been stop'd going to *France*.

THE Bishop desired to Examine them relating to these Letters being detain'd, and would fain have known who took them out of the Mail; this he thought was proper for him to demand, since he  
seem'd



seem'd to insinuate, That he question'd their ever having *been* in the Post-Office. But your Lordships would not suffer any Enquiry to be made on this Head, and Voted it inconsistent with the Publick Safety, and unnecessary for the Defence of the Prisoner, to permit any further Questions to be asked in relation to this Important Affair.

THESE *Honest* Gentlemen, the Clerks of the Post-Office, have deposed further, That the Papers produced, are *True Copies* of the *Originals* detained by them; though, at the same Time, they confess, they *never examin'd* them after they had Copied them.

THEY positively swore further, That the Originals were of the *same Hand* with the Letter of the 20th of *August*; though they affirm this barely upon *Memory*, never having mark'd any Letter in order to know it again; and one of 'em declared upon Oath, That he did not believe there could be such an Imitation of *Kelly's Hand* as could deceive him, though the whole House agrees, That Hands may be *Counterfeited* so as to deceive the Men that wrote them.

THEY own, they never compared Two Original Letters between the 24th of *August* and 20th of *April*, tho' they might have stopt a Letter one Post, without Prejudice to the Government, in order to be more certain in their Evidence.

THUS, my Lords, should this Bill pass, this Great Man must fall by the Dependance this House must have on the *Memory* of these Clerks.

## 462 The Duke of Wharton's SPEECH

Mr. *Lewis*, who has long serv'd in the Secretary's Office, tells us, That frequently Letters, and Seals used to be Counterfeited; and, in a more particular manner, by one *Brooker*, who excelled so much in this Art, that he has cheated many Persons, and has so far deceiv'd 'em, that they have not known his Copy from their own Originals.

WHEN these Letters, thus attested, came to be read, they are in *Cypher*; so that it must again depend on the Honesty of a *Decyphrer*, before they can possibly be made Treasonable.

Mr. *Wills* declares, They were truly *Decyphered* according to the best of his Judgment and Skill; and more particularly, that the Number 1378, which is subscribed to the Third Letter directed to *Jackson*, stands for the Letter R. But when some Lords ask'd him a Question, which perhaps, had he answered, might have proved him to be under a Mistake; he refuses to give an Answer, either in the Affirmative or Negative, for fear of *Revealing his Art*. Your Lordships thought proper to prevent any further Cross-Examination of this Gentleman, by a Resolution.

Mr. *Wills* says, He shew'd these Letters decyphered to my Lord *Townshend* before he communicated them to Mr. *Corbire*, who is a Clerk in the Secretary's Office, and then, he says, That Mr. *Corbire* and he agreed.

BEFORE these Letters can yet prejudice the Bishop, the Cant Names in them, must be explain'd

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according to the Key which the Prosecutors of the Plot have made; And in order to it, we must believe, That *Jackson* stands for the *Pretender*, because Mr. *Plunket* gave him that Title in his *Cypher*. Can there be a greater Absurdity than to imagine a Person of the Bishop of *Rockester's* Capacity, should borrow a Name of that Consequence, from so insignificant a Wretch as *Plunket*, who it does not appear ever saw him?

INDEED, the Council for the Bill did not read these Letters against the Bishop, since they had no Proof of his Dictating of them, and they were only read on Account of the general Conspiracy.

I MUST observe, It was a great Artifice of these Learned Gentlemen; Whenever there was a Piece of Evidence to which the Bishop objected, they constantly pretended, they produc'd it to the Plot in General; for they knew it could not be admitted against the Reverend Prelate; But yet when they came to sum up, they applied them to this Particular Case; which is not agreeable to that Candour that is necessary on such Occasions.

IF your Lordships should be of Opinion, that *Kelly* wrote 'em; that they were stopp'd at the Post-Office; that they were duly copy'd; that they were truly deciphered, and the *East Names* explain'd; yet still this cannot affect the Bishop, unless it be fix'd upon him that he dictated them: Two of them were sign'd *Jones* and *Wington*, and to induce your Lordships to believe the Bishop was Guilty, as they affirm'd, they endeavour to prove those Names must denote him. And  
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## 664 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH

In Order to it, they read some Letters affirm'd in the same Manner (as before mention'd) by the *Clerks* of the *Post-Office*, to be his Hand-writing; But first they read a Cypher taken upon Mr. *Dennis Kelly*, and sworn by the Messenger *Hutobins* to be wrote by *George Kelly*.

I CAN observe nothing upon this Cypher, but that the Bishop of *Rockester* is not mention'd in it, which seems very extraordinary, and is not a Proof of the Reverend Prelate's being engaged in a Conspiracy.

THE Letters they read of Mr. *Kelly* are of no Moment, and are only calculated to fix the Names of *Jones* and *Illington* upon the Bishop.

THEY give an Account of his Lady's Death, the Bishop's own Illness, his going to and from *Bromley*; and, in some of them, the Dog *Harlequin* is mentioned.

IT seems repugnant to Reason, that, in a Treasonable Correspondence of this Importance, a Gentleman should venture his Life to give an Account of the State of one Person's private Affair, and entertain his Friends Abroad with no other Business in such a Tract of Time.

IN the Letters directed to Mr. *Andrews* at the *Dog and Duck*, (which are proved to have been received by Mr. *Kelly*) *Jones* and *Illington* are not named, and those in which we find them, were such as pass'd thro' the *Post-Office*, and were attested like those under Cover to *Gordon le Fils*.

IT is not likely, that in a Transaction of so *secre*  
a Nature, Mr. *Kelly* should take such Pains to give  
such a Description as might give the least Room for a  
*Suspicion* that the Bishop was concerned; much less  
to have mentioned *so many Particulars*, as it may be  
suggested, he has done, if there could be any Possibi-  
lity of wresting the Meaning of *Jones* and *Illington*,  
and interpreting of them to mean the Bishop.

*William Wood*, the Bishop's Coachman, is brought  
to prove the particular Times of the Bishop's being in  
or out of Town, in order to shew, that they agree  
with the Times mentioned of *Jones* and *Illington* in  
the intercepted Correspondence; and he refreshes  
his Memory by a Book of *Memorandums*, which  
might have been destroyed, if it had been apprehen-  
ded by the Bishop's Friends, that such Evidence could  
affect him.

WHAT they next attempt, was to shew, That  
the Dog brought over by Mr. *Kelly* from *France*, and  
which Mrs. *Barnes* swears, That he once told her was  
for the Bishop of *Rochester*, was a strong Circumstance  
to fix the Name of *Illington* on the Bishop.

MY LORDS, Mrs. *Barnes*, who is under the  
Custody of a Messenger, is the only Witness to this  
Point, and what she says, is only *Hearsay* from *Kelly*.  
She owns that *Kelly* never told her so but once, and  
that was when she thought to have kept it for herself.  
And, indeed, it might be barely an Excuse to prevent  
his parting with it, for he had promised to bring her  
such a Present before he went to *France*.

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## 666 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH

SHE owns, That to her Knowledge, the Bishop never saw the Dog, nor sent any Message about it, which seems to be very extraordinary, that if this Present was of such *great Consequence*, he should not have had Curiosity enough, at least, to see it: An Affidavit was read from *Bernmingham*, a Surgeon in *Paris*, which says, That he gave this Dog to Mr. Kelly, for Mrs. Barnes.

BEFORE I leave this Circumstance of the Dog, it is proper to observe *another great Improbability*, which is, In a Letter wrote a few Days after the Death of the Bishop's Lady, it is said, Mr. *Blington* was in *great Tribulation* for the Loss of poor *Hartquin*; and can it be supposed, That at a Time when the Bishop was in Affliction for the Death of his Wife, he should *indecently* discover *so much Grief* for such a Trifle?

I THINK this is sufficient to convince any Person whatsoever, That this Correspondence is of a very extraordinary Nature.

Mrs. Barnes has told your Lordships, That Mr. Kelly came from *France* the 11th of *April*.

MY LORDS, I am now come to the only Piece of Evidence that seems particularly levell'd at the Bishop: Which is, The Proof that has been given of the Dictating those Letters; and, unless this be *clearly* and *plainly* made appear, I cannot conceive that any Thing can be laid to this Prelate's Charge.

UNLESS it is evident, that the Bishop did dictate as alledged, I cannot think any of your Lordships can vote him Guilty according to the Rules of Justice; for no Man is safe either in his *Life, Liberty or Fortune*, if he may be deprived of either on Account of a Correspondence, in which it does not appear he was concerned. Though your Lordships should so far credit the precarious Evidence, as to believe that *Jones* and *Wilmington* stood for the Bishop of *Rockester*; yet, unless it is plain, that it was with *his Privy*, it is certainly impossible this Bill should pass; And if it should, it will hereafter be in the Power of any Two Men, *one at Home, and one Abroad*, to ruin the most innocent Person, by entring, *without his Knowledge*, into a Correspondence of this Nature.

IF the being *named* in Treasonable Letters, be a Crime, though it does not appear it was *with the Privy* of such Persons, I will submit to your Lordships, how far Men of the *greatest Zeal* to the *present Establishment*, are to be affected by Mr. *Plunket's* *Insinuations*.

NO Man ought to suffer for the *Suggestions* of *another* Person, unless it appears he has given *great Foundation* for them. And in this Case, would it not be most extraordinary and most unjust, to punish this Reverend Prelate, for a Crime which there is no Proof he ever committed? I mean, the Dictating of these Letters. And if, on the other Hand, the unfortunate Circumstances of his Affairs has furnished him with Means of shewing, beyond Contradiction, that he *could not* be concern'd in the Letters of the 20th of *April*;

## 668 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH

*April*; That for a considerable Time before, he *could* not see Mr. *Kelly*; and that there never was an *Intimacy* between 'em; Then, my LORDS, I hope, every Man who gives his Vote for the *Rejecting* this Bill, has the strongest Evidence of his Side to support his Opinion; and need not be *afraid* or *ashamed* to own it here, or any where else.

THIS Part of the Evidence being of great Consequence, I must beg your Lordships Attention whilst I recapitulate the Heads of it as clearly and distinctly as possibly I can.

THE First Witness they call'd, was *Flower*, a Chairman, who swears, That he carried *Kelly* twice or thrice to the Deanary; but that the Bishop was never at Home, and consequently did not see him. His Partner swore, He had carried him, with *Flower*, one of those Times.

THE next Person produced, was a Porter, one *Vanlear*, who deposed, That he went about *Christmas* was Twelve-Months, twice, with Messages from *Kelly* to the Bishop; The last of which Times, he carried some *Beaver* Stocks; That the Bishop sent for him up Stairs, gave his Service to Mr. *Johnson*, and thank'd him for his Present.

Mrs. *Kilberne*, at whose House Mr. *Kelly* lodg'd, says, That once a Servant came from the Bishop, to know how Mr. *Johnson* did, and was sorry he could not have his Company at Dinner.

*Williams*



*William Wood* the Bishop's Coachman, says, He once stopp'd in *Bury Street*, but does not know for what; and that the Bishop sent a Servant somewhere, who presently returned. And,

*Eloyd*, who keeps the *Star and Garter* in *Palace Yard*, has told us, That *Neyno* once came to his House, and told him, He staid for an ingenious Gentleman, who was gone to the Bishop of *Rockester's* House.

THIS, my Lords, is all the Proof they offered of this *Intimacy*, from which they would infer, That the Bishop dictated these Letters, and is consequently Guilty of the Crimes laid to his Charge.

IF your Lordships consider what was produced on the other Side, I am sure you must agree there is no Foundation for this Assertion.

*Mrs. Kilburne* denies, to the best of her Knowledge, that the Bishop ever came to her House, or that his Coach ever stopp'd there, or ever was lent for *Kelly*.

THAT *Kelly* did not go out of Town, from the Time he came from *France*, till he was taken up, the 29th of *May*, and never lay out of her House one Night.

THIS, my Lords, was confirmed by her Maid *Anne Ellis*.

Mrs.

## 676 *The Duke of Wharton's* SPEECH

*Mrs. Barnes* says, she never heard of any Message from the Bishop to *Kelly*, nor ever had any Conversation with him about the Bishop.

*William Wood* the Coachman, who liv'd with the Bishop Four Years, has declared, that the Bishop of *Rochester* never sent him with his Coach to *Bury-Street* to fetch any Person from thence; That there was no Stranger at *Bromley* for a Fortnight before his Lady died, which was the 26th of *April*; That nobody could come in a Coach, or on Horse-back, but he must know it; That he never saw such a Person as *Mr. Kelly*, 'till he was shewn him at the Tower; and, That the Bishop went ill of the Gout to *Bromley* the 12th of *April*, and did not return to *London*, 'till the 7th of *May*.

*Malone*, *Mrs. Barnes's* Servant, says, That she never saw the Bishop, or any of his Servants, with *Mr. Kelly*.

*Thomas Grant*, who has been the Bishop's Servant 9 Years, has declared, That the Bishop went to *Bromley* the 12th of *April* very ill of the Gout, and that no Stranger could come to him, from the Time he went to *Bromley*, 'till after his Wife's Death; That one or other of the Servants always sat up with him; And that no Person could visit him, but they must know it; for they were either in the same Room or the next Room to him; and that no Stranger, except *Dr. Aldrige* and the Apothecary, came near him. *Grant* says, That he was forc'd to go to Town to attend at the *Westminster* Election of Scholars on the  
21st

11th of April, but left *Beauchamp* there, who came down for that Purpose on the 18th.

*Beauchamp* and *Steen*, who were the Two Servants that attended with *Grant*, swear the same thing.

*Susannah Harvey*, *Sarah Jones*, *Thomas Farnden*, *Elizabeth Higginson*, and all the Servants agree, That they never heard of any Person by the Name of *Kelly* or *Johnson* being with the Bishop. And,

*Mrs. Bishop*, who took the Names of the Bishop's Visitors for many Years, does not remember, that she ever heard of such a Person as *Kelly* or *Johnson*. And I doubt not, but that every Lord must allow, that it is not possible to have a more clear, a more strong, or legal Proof to a Negative, than this is.

I MUST observe to your Lordships, that most of these Servants have been in strict Custody, and severely used, particularly *Farnden*, and yet your Lordships see how unanimous they are in their Evidence; and their Testimony is so positive, that I cannot conceive any Person can suggest there was the least Intimacy between this Reverend Prelate and Mr. *Kelly*; and much less, that he could be with him, or write the Letters that are dated the 19th of April.

Mr. Reeves did, indeed, so far agree, as to be of Opinion, that they might have been wrote the 18th of April; which was the Day *Kelly* came from Exeter. But, my Lords, *Mrs. Barnes* has deposed, He came to Bed the Minute he came Home, and lay there for a considerable Time; Besides, it is improbable, that

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Letters wrote the 11th, should not be sent till the 19th. But if any other Argument was necessary to confute this absurd Supposition, The Earl of *Sunderland's* Death is mentioned in the Letter to *Chancery*, and that Noble Lord died the 10th, at which Time, it has been prov'd, Mr. *Kelly* was not with the Bishop. The Bishop of *St. Asaph* did, at first, peremptorily contradict one Part of Mr. *Gray's* Evidence, by saying, He had received a Letter from the Bishop of *Rockester* at the Time, which *Grant* has sworn he was full of the Countess, that he could not write. But this Lordship positively affirmed, That he received this Letter on *Sturday* the 21st of *April* in the Morning, and saw *Grant* in *London* between Twelve and Two: But when it was proved that *Grant* did not leave *Bristol* till the Evening of that Day, and that another Person officiated for him as Bishop in the Deanery, His Reason of his Absence, then the Bishop found it worth his while to alter a Mistake, and allow'd it might have been some time before. His Lordship own'd, He never received a Letter from the Bishop of *Rockester* before nor since, and therefore was a Stranger to his Hand.

So COULD have wish'd this Reverend Bishop had recollect'd himself more fully, before he had given his Testimony in a Matter of this great Importance to one of his Brethren.

THERE.

THERE was another Witness examined; which was *Crofton* the Shoemaker, to prove, that *Talbot* (who was said to have received the Three Letters directed to *Gordon le Fitz*) was at that Time in *London*, when he was supposed to have been in *Bologna*. *Crofton* swears he saw him in Town the 19th of *April*, and prov'd it by his Book.

THERE was another Person call'd, whose Name was *Donner*, that deposed, *Gordon* own'd to him the receiving this Pacquet; But an *Affidavit* was produced from *Gordon*, in which he denies it. *Donner's* Evidence is only *Hear-say*, the other is *positive*.

MY LORDS. The Counsel for the *Bill*, produced some Papers, which were taken in the *Bishop's* Custody when he was apprehended, and endeavour'd to draw very *ill-natur'd* and *forc'd* Constructions from them.

THE *First* was a Letter from the *Dutchess* of *Ormonde*, in which she acquaints him, That *she* had something to say to him, which she could not write by letter. *Henry* or Words to that Effect: And that they would pretend to insinuate, was *some treasonable Papers*.

I APPEAL to all Mankind, Whether it is not very extraordinary to suppose, that the *Bishop* should be presumed to convey a *Traiterous Correspondence* through that Channel. *Everybody* knows the *Friend*,

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ship which was between the Reverend Prelate and that Family; and it is not surprizing that this *unfortunate Lady* should think him a proper Person to consult, and intrust with her own Affairs. Therefore I can't think, that these *general Expressions*, can at all affect him.

THE next they read, is a Paper found, or pretended to be found, at the Deanary, subscribed to *Dubois*, but without Date; In this the Person who writes it, says, He received a Letter by Mr. *Johnson*, to which he return'd an Answer in his Hand.

THE *Secret Committee*, at first, apprehended, that this was received by the Bishop, and thus it pass'd, 'till upon seizing a Letter wrote in the *Tower* by his Lordship, they found a *Similitude* in the *Seals*, which immediately *inlighten'd* them; and then it was presently said to have been wrote by the Bishop.

THEY then wanted to fix this to be the Bishop's own Hand-writing, and they could find no other Way of doing it, but pretending there was a *Similitude* between the *K's* in this Letter, and those which the Bishop generally used. I believe, it is the first Time that ever such an Argument was brought to prove that the *whole Letter* has been wrote by a Person; much less was it ever pretended to be offered to a Court of Justice against any Prisoner whatsoever; But, I believe, there is no Man acquainted with the Bishop's Hand, but sees it is *not* wrote by him.

THEY

THEY would also affirm, That when in this Letter the Bishop is supposed to say, That he returned an Answer in Mr. Johnson's Hand, it must be understood to be his *Hand-writing*; which, I must confess, does not at all appear to be a necessary Conclusion, for he might deliver his Answer into Mr. Johnson's Hand, which, I think, is more natural to suppose than the other.

YOUR Lordships must judge, how improbable it is, that the Bishop should keep such a Letter by him, which he wrote himself; or that, when such Care is taken, as the Prosecutors of the Plot themselves say, for preventing any Person's discovering the Intimacy between Mr. Kelly and him, such a Secret should be trusted in *Writing*, and even *without a Cypher*.—The *Two Seals* which gave this Turn, are *Cicero's Heads*, which are very common, and are to be found every where. They are one broke, the other whole, which must make it very difficult to judge of them; and it is allowed, That, at best, it is but *precarious Evidence*.

IF Mr. Noyes speaks Truth, when he said, The Bishop had Notice of the Storm that threatned him, I am certain, that this Paper, if it could have been apprehended of Consequence, would have been destroyed; But, I believe, it was impossible for him, or any-body else, to think it should meet with such an Explanation.

THE next Letter, they produced, which they seem'd to think material, was that which was seiz'd

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on his Servant going to Mr. *Morice*: In this he says, That the Evidence of *Plunker*, and those People, could not affect him; but as he does not mention Mr. *Kelly*, they would have it presumed, that this is a Proof, that *Kelly* could have said something of him; But, I think, this must appear to be a very *ill-manur'd* Assertion.

YOUR Lordships consider, he was then writing to his *Son-in-Law*; and therefore no great Accuracy was necessary.

IN another Place, he says, That if they impeach'd him, he should remain in Prison for some time; and this they would decypher to be an Implication of his Guilt. — But, in my poor Opinion, it is the Reverse; He seems to say, That if the Commons should be induced to send up an Impeachment against him, he was so satisfied of his own Innocence, and your Lordships Justice, that he thought the Confinement 'till his Tryal, would be the only Misfortune that could attend him. The Example of the Earl of *Oxford* was recent in his Memory, and might justly create in him a Fear of undergoing a long Imprisonment.

IT is objected, That he, in this Letter, makes no Protestations of his Innocence: But if you will consider he writes to Mr. *Morice*, I believe every body will agree, That such Declarations were not necessary.

Mr. *Lyster's* Attainder was read; but it does not appear, that the Bishop had any Correspondence with him;



him; therefore I can't conceive why we were troubled with it. *MY LORDS*, I have now gone through the whole Evidence that is brought to justify this extraordinary Proceeding, and must observe the Steps that have been taken to procure all the possible Means to work the Destruction of this Great Man.

*YOU* have seen his very Servants confined, who it does not appear, were guilty of the least *Example of Treason*.

*Mr. Bingley* told us in the Case of *Kelly* (and as it has not been disproved, it is to be taken for granted) that a Warrant was shewn by the Messenger, sign'd by a Secretary of State, to carry him to *Newgate*, which he was told was unavoidable, unless he would own the Letter of the 20th of *August* to be *Mr. Kelly's* Hand-writing; But it appeared the next Day, to be nothing but a trick to terrify him.

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Mr. *Kelly* himself has told your Lordships, That Mr. *Delafaye* offer'd him his own Terms, if he would have turn'd Evidence: And this was done to destroy the Bishop of *Rochester*; or, to speak in the Language mentioned at your Bar, To pull down the Pride of this Haughty Prelate.

YOUR Lordships may remember, That Mr. *Wearg* objects to the Bishop's Servants, because Two of them had *Employments*, as appears by his Lordship's own Letter: But, my Lords, when they were examined, they acquainted the House, that it was upon reading of the *Report*, that they recollected the Bishop's Circumstances before the Death of his Wife. And if every Man who has a Place under the Bishop, is not to be esteemed a *Free Agent* when he is upon Oath, I hope it will be allowed on the other Hand, That those who have *Employments* under the Government, ought not to be admitted; then all the Witnesses, that have been brought to support the Bill, from the *Decypherer* to the *Messenger*, will be discredited, and the whole Prosecution must fall to the Ground.

MY LORDS, It has been a Hardship which has attended the Bishop, that he has been forc'd to prove a *Negative*; and the Difficulty has been the stronger upon him, that your Lordships have not permitted Mr. *Kelly* to be examin'd, as was mov'd by a Learned Lord in my Eye; and if the Gentleman had sworn what he so solemnly affirmed at your Bar, relating to this

this Affair, I can't conceive we could have had the least Debate.

THE Noble Lords who appear, the *most Zealous* in this Prosecution, were those who *oppos'd* the *Examination* of Mr. Kelly, which, in my poor Opinion, is a *strong Argument*, That if he had been brought before us, he would have *persisted* in his Declarations of the Bishop's Innocence.

THE Reverend Prelate has desired of any Lord in the Administration, and even the *Honourable Person* who appear'd at your Bar, to declare, Whether any *one single Person* had charg'd him (on *their own Knowledge*) of being guilty of any treasonable Practices. And it has appeared to the contrary. Therefore this whole Charge is founded upon the *slight Circumstances* and improbable *Intend's* before mention'd.

ANOTHER Objection which was raised, is, That Mr. Kelly made Resistance when he was seized, till he had burnt some of his Papers; But, my Lords, I don't see any Reason to lay this to the Charge of the Bishop.

KELLY is to answer for *his own Actions*, and is unfortunately like to suffer for em; A Person of his Age, might have many Letters in his Custody, which he did not care should be seen, and yet of a *different Nature* from a Trayterous Correspondence.

AFTER

AFTER this Evidence is considered, I cannot think your Lordships will establish such a Precedent, which hereafter may be employ'd to ruin the ~~Or~~ <sup>best</sup> amongst you; and if ever hereafter Pains and Penalties are unjustly inflicted on any Person, Posterity will derive the Original of such Bills from the Proceedings of this Parliament; and what Opinion will be framed of us, should this be passed into a Law, I submit to every impartial Person.

IT must be less to your Lordships Consideration, which will be of most fatal Consequence to the Publick, The leaving this Protestants (of Condemning as such Kind of Evidence) take a Sword which your Enemies may take up when they please, for the Battering the Bishop of Rochester in the Evening of his Days, who alone could do, in his single Person, no Prejudice to the Constitution: If he were inclin'd to overturn it, as his Enemies suggest, he is in a better Situation *Abroad*, than at *Home*, to execute that Design, and direct the Councils of the Disaffected. The Ruin of *one Man*, will not heal the Wound, that the Passing of this Bill seems to make in the Government of this Kingdom.

IT has been said in the Debate, That the Bishop ought to have made Protestations of his Zeal for His Majesty and His Family; But, I think he took the most ready Way of Performing his Duty, when he shew'd himself Innocent of the Crimes laid to his Charge.

IF he had made Use of any Expressions, which those Lords blame him for omitting, the same good Nature would have call'd it *Hypocrisy*; and those who are dispos'd with his *Silence*, would have accus'd him of *Innocency*.

MY LORDS; This Bill seems as irregular in the Banishment it inflicts, as it is in its Foundation, and carries with it an unnatural Degree of Hardship.

IT is Felony for his *Children* to correspond with him: And in this Circumstance; it is different from the only Bill that carries with it the least Resemblance of this: I mean, That for the Banishment of the Earl of *Charendon*.

THE Earl had flown from the Prosecution, and retired beyond Sea. The Charges against him were principally, For advising a Standing Army; and another Article exhibited was, That he had advised and procured divers of his Majesty's Subjects to be imprison'd against Law, in remote Islands, Garrisons, and other Places, thereby to prevent the Benefit of the Law, and to produce Precedents for the Imprisoning any other of his Majesty's Subjects in like manner.

THE 2<sup>d</sup> Article against him, was, That he had, in a short Time, gain'd to himself a greater Estate than could be imagin'd to be gain'd lawfully in so short a Time; And, contrariety to his Oath, he had procured several Castles under the Great Seal from his Majesty, for his own use and the Use of his Majesty's Enemies.

Here-

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*Hereditaments and Leases, to the Disprofit of his Majesty.*

THERE need not have been any Witnesses of these Crimes, for they were apparent; and every-body knew he was *Prime Minister*; Yet Sir Francis Goodier, upon that Debate in the House of Commons, declared the Sentiments which I express'd at the Beginning, *That he was not against Proceeding, but unsatisfy'd to do it without Witness, it being like swearing in verba Magistrum.*

ANOTHER great Man, upon the same Question, and an Ancestor to a Noble Lord near me, said, *That if the Parliament set aside Lawyn this Case, we should be happy to see Law declaring the Power of Parliaments.*

THE Punishment for Corresponding with the Earl, was High-Treason, and then Two positive Witnesses were necessary to convict; But, in this Case, One *Corrupt, Terrified and Perjured Person*, may take away the Life of the most Innocent Man.

THERE is another great Misfortune which this Bill brings upon the Bishop, which is, That he is incapable of receiving his Majesty's Pardon: This, my Lords, is an *Entrenchment upon the Prerogative*; And what must make it the more severe in this Case, is, That His Majesty's Inclinations to Mercy (which are the distinguishing Characters of his Life) are stopp'd by this Law, which the unfortunate Prelate might have Hopes of receiving, when he had merited it.

by

by a Dutiful Behaviour to the Country that had sent him to wander Abroad in Exile, and by his future Conduct have confirm'd, if possible, the Evidence he has given of his Innocence.

MY LORDS, in the Case of the Earl of *Dartmouth*, your Lordships have declared, That his Banishment should be no Precedent, nor draw into Example for the Time to come, and have so enter'd it in your Journals.

IT has been proved, That this Reverend Prelate was at the Time that he was suspected to be acting in Treason, engaged in Studies of the most high Nature, which is a Circumstance that ought to have some Weight.

IF this Bill pass into a Law, such Evidence is establish'd, and such a Method of Proceeding introduc'd, as must effectually render all that is dear to us Precarious; and if ever, hereafter, we should see a wicked Administration, supported by a Corrupt Majority in Parliament, this Step, taken in *these Times of Liberty*, will be a sufficient Precedent to give a Colour of Justice to the Actions of those who should be wanton in Tyranny.

THE Reverend Prelate, who spoke before me, mentions some Cases relating to Bills of Attainder, which, in my poor Opinion, differ very much from our present Question.

THE

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THE Attainder of Sir John Ferricks, was only to supply the want of a Witness, who had deposed against him upon Oath before the Grand Jury; and who was spirited away by the Prisoner's Friends: But at present, your Lordships are to supply the Defect of Evidence, by condemning on *improbable Conjecture*. There was a Noble Lord in this House the other Day. — *I don't see him now!* — who made the greatest Figure in Opposition to that Bill: I wish we could have his Assistance on this Occasion.

MY LORDS, since that Reverend Prelate has quoted some Cases, he will permit me to remind him what has been formerly said upon Acts of Attainder. That such Bills, like *Sisyphus's Stone*, have frequently roll'd back upon those that were the chief Promoters of them.

THIS prudential Argument should restrain us from being too forward with them at this Time of Day.

THE Act for the Attainder of the Earl of March, pass'd, because he had been instrumental in procuring the Attainder of another Lord, under Pretence of a Letter, which, the Record says, was no Evidence.

THE Lord Cromwell is another known Instance of this Observation: He was the first who advis'd this violent Proceeding in Henry the VIIIth's Time; and it is Remarkable, that the Advice he gave to the Ruin of Others, prov'd, not long after, fatal to Himself.

I HAVE



I HAVE now given your Lordships, the Reasons why I am against the Bill. I fear I have tired your Patience, and shall therefore conclude with the Words of the Great Man I before mentioned ; I mean, Sir *Heneage Finch*, in the Case of the Earl of *Clarendon* ——— “ We have an Accusation upon *Hearsay*, and “ if it is not made good, the blackest Scandal Hell “ can invent, lies at our Doors.

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